



# HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS



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

## WRONG TRACK - WRONG LOCATION!

Transportation agency ignores existing commuter rail destinations!

By R. A. "Barney" Barnett

For the last 8 years the agency responsible for making transportation decisions in our area continues to completely ignore the requests from the people in the region when it comes to commuter rail station locations and destinations.

On Jan. 25, 2010, the Riverside County Transportation Commission Ad Hoc committee rejected our requests to build a Metrolink station right next to the track where commuter trains pass by 7 days a week between San Bernardino and Riverside. Instead, RCTC wants to build a station only 1/2 mile away, right next to another track where there are no commuter trains at all! Does this seem logical? Is this really true?

**Track layout:** At Highgrove just south of Main St. at the San Bernardino/Riverside County line, the tracks split. One track goes toward Perris and the other 3 tracks go toward Riverside. This split results in 19 acres of pie shaped vacant land between these 2 different railroads. The Perris Valley Line track is on the east side of the 19 acres and the 3 BNSF tracks are on the west side. RCTC wants to establish new commuter train service between Riverside and Perris but they need a U shaped curved track to reverse their northward direction from Riverside to Highgrove, to a southward direction from Highgrove to Perris.

Without this curve to connect the 2 railroads at this location, no commuter trains will be able to operate between Riverside and Perris unless the engineer changes ends.

**Why changing ends is necessary:** All train movements are operated by an engineer located in the front of the train. But commuter trains have the capability to be operated from either end. The commuter train engineer can control the train from the engine or from the rear coach compartment to go in the opposite direction. The engine stays attached but pushes the coaches instead of pulls them. But before going in the opposite direction, the engineer has to walk to the opposite end of the train and a brake test must be made by the crew to visually check the brakes to

see if they work properly. This procedure can be very time consuming.

In the future, when the engineer is operating the train from the engine going northward from Riverside to Highgrove for example, after the curved track is built, he would be able to stay in his seat and go around the new proposed curve to head back southward toward Perris.

This would save a lot of time and we have no objection to this portion of the plan.

### HERE IS THE PROBLEM: STATION LOCATION

Highgrove already has commuter trains 7 days a week, on the west side of the same vacant 19 acres needed for the curved track. One station platform at Highgrove could accommodate commuters now, by just stopping some of the existing commuter trains, and the same station platform could be used to serve future commuters to Perris when the Perris Valley Line is completed. The distance between these two locations is only 1/2 mile but they have different destinations!

RCTC's plan does not include stopping any of the existing commuter trains between Riverside and San Bernardino even after the Perris Valley Line track is finished!

During a one year construction period of the Perris Valley Line railroad for example, there will be 3,224 commuter trains between Riverside and San Bernardino that pass through Highgrove. Some of these trains could stop for passengers. This same piece of property could be used for both the station and the curve.

**\$232.69 Million dollars** of our Federal Tax Money and Measure "A" tax money (RCTC figure), is estimated for this 24 mile upgrade, but the RCTC plan ignores the existing Metrolink commuter trains between Riverside County and San Bernardino County. Their plan reverses direction just before it reaches the San Bernardino County line and turns back into Riverside County toward Perris.

**Perris Valley Line expenses:** 24 miles of the Perris Valley Line track need to be completely upgraded for passenger service. New rail and ties are needed in the roadbed, additional tracks have to be built for meeting or passing other trains and new engines and new

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## New High School impacts Highgrove Special meeting called for Main Street residents



The new Grand Terrace High School is shown under construction on the north side of Main St. which is the county line. Highgrove residents across the street on the south side, in Riverside County are very concerned!

At the last MAC meeting on March 24, 2010, Highgrove residents along Main St. called our attention to how the widening of Main St. for the new Grand Terrace High School, will have a negative impact on their property values by taking part of their frontage on the south side of the street. Juan Perez, the Director of Transportation for Riverside County was not in attendance but was contacted during our meeting and via speaker phone agreed to set up a special meeting at **6:00 pm on April 7, 2010 at the corner of Main St. and Michigan Avenue.** Concerned residents can meet with Mr. Perez at this time.

## RTA Bus Service Route 25 in jeopardy!

The Riverside Transit Agency is considering eliminating the current bus service through Grand Terrace. The bus stops would remain the same in Highgrove but riders would not be able to get to Grand Terrace for services because Route 25 may turn westward and go onto the freeway at Michigan Ave. and Barton Road instead of turn-

ing eastward where all the businesses are located. At the RTA public hearing in Riverside on March 25, 2010 there were several speakers who opposed these changes. Lee Ann Garcia, Grand Terrace City Councilwoman, Gary Phelps, Grand Terrace resident, Denis Kidd,

*Continued on P. 4*

## Vendors Wanted for Highgrove Day

Highgrove Day will be on Sat. May 8, 2010



Vendor and car show applications are available on line:  
[www.highgrovehappenings.net](http://www.highgrovehappenings.net)

Highgrove business or resident or non profit org. \$10  
Non-Highgrove business or resident \$20

Melanie (951) 712 5454 or Barney (951) 683 4994.



# 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](http://www.nycchighgrove.com)**



## Calendar of events: Mark the dates!

April 2<sup>nd</sup> 9AM – 12 Noon, Marvin with the  
 April 7<sup>th</sup> 10AM - 2 PM, Census Bureau will be  
 April 14<sup>th</sup> 10AM – 1 pm, at the center to help  
 April 16 9AM – 1 PM. assist with your Census  
 Questionnaire:



April 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> 8-10 AM, April 6<sup>th</sup> 8-10AM, April 23 7-9AM,  
 Mary with Riverside County Office on Aging will at the center regarding  
 Utility Assistance possible up to \$2319.00 and the Riverside County Office  
 on Aging will provide information referral services for the weatherization  
 program and will assist seniors in completing applications for the program  
 "This stimulus money will provide 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." 951-867-3800  
[mvasquez@co.riverside.ca.us](mailto:mvasquez@co.riverside.ca.us)

April 7<sup>th</sup> New Cake Class to begin call the center for more details

April 20<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 8:30 Izaro with Scan Health Plan 1-866-390-7226 - Presentation on Preventing Falls.

April 19<sup>th</sup> 3:00 Cooking with Maryann a 4 week course to begin at 4:30pm (\$20 per person). For more information and sign up; contact the center.

May 15<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM – to 2 PM. Southern California Witness Project are offering Free Mammograms and Clinical Breast exams. To Register Call 951-485-9334 and ask for Nina, Sharon, or Deborah.

## Southern California Witness Project Are Offering **Free!!! Mammograms**

- ❖ Be **40** years of age or more
- ❖ Have **NO** Insurance or Medical
- ❖ Low Income

**DATE: SATURDAY, May 15, 2010**

**TIME: 9AM-2PM**

**PLACE: Norton Younglove Community Center  
 459 Center Street  
 Riverside, CA 92507**

**To Register Please Call: The Witness Project  
 At: (951) 485-9334 ask for Nina, Sharon, or Deborah  
 Fax: (951) 485-4031 E-Mail: [scwitnessproject03@hotmail.com](mailto:scwitnessproject03@hotmail.com)**

A program of The Quinn Community Outreach Corp (An affiliated Corporation of the Quinn AME Church)  
 This program is funded by: Susan G. Komen for the Cure and Avon Foundation Breast Care Fund, and Riverside Community Health Foundation.



**Thursday April 1st  
 From 2:30 to 4:30 PM**

## Easter Egg Hunt

**Egg Hunt, Egg Toss and Bonnet  
 & Hat Decorating Craft- Contest**

Egg Hunt: Group Ages: 1-3, 4-6,  
 7-9, 10-12

Egg Toss and Hat Contest Group  
 Ages: 4-6, 7-9, 10-12

**Where?** →

459 Center Street  
 Highgrove, CA 92507  
 951-341-6634

## Highgrove Day Fun Zone needs your help

The theme this year is "Save The Earth"

Admission to the Fun Zone this year is 1 recycle item such as empty paper towel or toilet paper rolls, plastic water bottles or any other paper or plastic recycle items.  
 We will have different games made out of recycle materials.



We will be making the Crazy Hats and need donations of the following items: feathers, buttons, foam shapes, ribbon, lace, pipe cleaners, pom poms and any small craft items you might want to donate.

If you have any ideas for recycling games please let us know. If you are willing to help or donate please contact Kathy Cochran at (951) 696 0100 or (909) 261 6070.

If you have any prize donations for the game winners please call Kathy

**We are collecting these items for  
 Highgrove Day on May 8, 2010**

**Don't Forget The Next MAC Meeting  
 April 28, 2010 7:00pm**



# HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

## HIGHGROVE SHERIFF REPORT

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	4	Vehicles Towed	5
Misdemeanor Arrests	5	Calls for Service	196
Traffic Citations	5	Business Checks	30

Call **911** for Emergencies only

Sheriff Dept.: (951) 776-1099 (Non emergency)

Sgt. Andy Stonebreaker (951) 955 2654 Lieutenant Art Gonzales (951) 955 2628

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

### Highlights:

On 03/03/10, deputies towed several vehicles and/or trailers on Center St. X Garfield Ave. The vehicles had been previously tagged reference being parked for 72-hours without being moved. Vehicles were towed and stored at the owner's expense.

On 03/04/10, a deputy on patrol observed a vehicle unloading several dirt bikes at the top of Center St. X Mt. Vernon Ave. The deputy contacted the individuals and advised them Riverside County has a zero tolerance for off road vehicles. Additionally, the deputy warned them the area they were parked in is privately owned and they could be cited for trespassing at the owner's discretion. The subjects were cooperative and vacated the area without incident.

On 03/05/10, a deputy responded to the 250 block of West La Cadena Ave.; reference a disturbance between numerous subjects attending a party at a nearby location. Deputies arrived and were able to resolve the differences between parties involved and the on duty security force. A business check was performed and information obtained was forwarded to CDF.

On 03/05/10, deputies responded to an unknown trouble call in the 400 block of Iowa Ave. Upon arrival, deputies contacted the reporting party. The female caller advised she had stopped by to visit her boyfriend and found him with an unknown female. All parties were separated and contacted.

On 03/12/10, a deputy responded to the 1200 W. Spring St., reference a silent alarm inside a residence. Upon arrival the deputy checked the resi-

dence and it appeared locked and secured. Deputy was able to contact the owner of the residence who advised she had accidentally tripped the alarm before she had left. The owner thanked the deputy for his quick response and apologized for the mistake.

On 03/12/10, a deputy responded to the area of Mt. Vernon X Center St., reference a suspicious vehicle. Upon arrival the deputy located a vehicle registered to an owner in the City of Riverside. The owner was located a short time later and advised he was out walking his dog in the field. 03/17/10, a deputy contacted a male adult in the parking lot of a business at the corner of Iowa Ave. X Center St. Dispatch advised the subject had a misdemeanor warrant for arrest out of Riverside County. The subject was detained and subsequently released with a citation and new court date.

03/19/10, a deputy performed a traffic stop at the corner of Center St. X Michigan Ave. The deputy contacted the two male adult subjects inside the vehicle. The driver advised he was just recently released from prison for attempted murder and was on active CDC parole. Both subjects were detained. During the deputy's investigation, dispatch advised the passenger had four misdemeanor warrants out of Riverside County.

On 03/19/10, deputies performed a parole check at a residence in the 400 block of Pacific Ave. The residence was checked for illegal narcotics and/or contraband, which met with negative results. The male sub-

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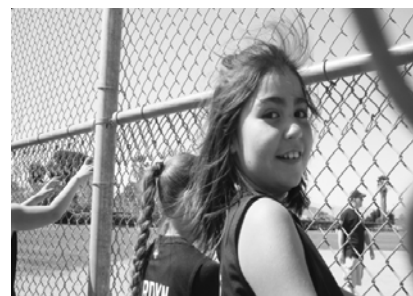
From the MLB Pitch Hit & Run at Highgrove Community Park Saturday, March 20th

The following participants in each age group are awarded and advance to the Sectional Competition: ~ Rudy Perez ~ 7/8 yr old Boy's All-Around Champion AND Pitching Champion AND Hitting Champion AND Running Champion! ~ Nicholas Gomez ~ 9/10 yr old Boy's All-Around Champion, Pitching Champion, AND Running Champion! ~ Xavier Carpio ~ Pitching Champ. ~ Christian Jasso ~ Hitting Champion ~ Christian Muñoz ~ 11/12 yr old Boy's All-Around Champion AND Pitching Champion! ~ Blake DeMuth ~ Pitching Champion ~ Ryan Campbell ~ Hitting Champion ~ RobertAnthony Cruz ~ Running Champion ~ Ariana Olazaba ~ 9/10 yr old Girl's All-Around Champion, Pitching Champion AND Running Champion! ~ Lyndi Johnson ~ Hitting Champion ~ Sabrina Cruz ~ 13/14 yr old Girl's All-Around Champion, Pitching Champion, Hitting Champion AND Running Champion Riverside Highgrove/Grand Terrace PONY

(951) 846-9431 <http://www.HighgrovePONY.com>



Highgrove PONY Baseball & ASA Softball had an exciting day on Saturday March 27th! The wins included: Bronco White Sox vs IE Dodgers 10-8, Bronco Yankees vs Rialto Warriors 4-1. Girl's Softball Divas IOU vs Guadalupe Dodgerettes Mustang Angels vs Guadalupe. After the Guadalupe Warriors teased the Highgrove Benchwarmers about their name, the Benchwarmers won in a decisive 18-7 victory!



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# HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

## This bus may not stop in Grand Terrace!



RTA Bus # 25 is shown crossing the RR tracks on Iowa. This bus operates between Riverside and the Veterans hospital in Loma Linda. The new route will be the same in Highgrove but may not stop in Grand Terrace!

and R. A. "Barney" Barnett addressed the need to keep bus service going through Grand Terrace instead of onto the I-215 & I-10 freeways to Anderson St. to get to the Veterans Hospital in Loma Linda.

Denis and I pointed out that bus route 25 enables Highgrove people to go to Grand Terrace for services that are not available in Highgrove such as a bank, post office, Stater Bros., pharmacy, chiropractor, dentist and places for the youth such as the roller rink or new dance studio. None of the above services would be accessible if this route goes onto the freeway instead of through Grand Terrace.

I think we may have made a valid argument because one of the things that will be considered is that RTA will provide bus service to the Riverside/San Bernardino county line at Michigan Ave. and Main St., and Omnitrans would provide bus service through Grand Terrace. RTA and Omnitrans are supposed to find a solution by September of this year. Mark Stanley, RTA

Director of Planning, was at our Highgrove MAC meeting the night before the public hearing on March 24, 2010. The following article appeared in the March 2010 issue of the RTA Reader and is quoted below:

### "February Ridership Hits a Record"

"Despite the rainy weather, service reductions and fare increases, RTA posted its highest ridership of any February with 635,989 boardings, a 1.3 per cent increase compared to the same month a year ago. February boardings were the second-highest ever for directly operated routes and the highest ever for contracted routes. CommuterLink routes posted gains 12 percent higher than last year."

You can address your comments to: Mark Stanley, (951) 565 5130 mstanley@riversidetransit.com or Brad Weaver, Marketing Manager, (951) 565 5172 bweaver@riversidetransit.com

## Grand Terrace legal advice-good or bad?

When something negative happens to a good man in Grand Terrace such as Jim Miller, I too am quite concerned that the city has lost a very good city councilman.

I have known Jim for a long time and feel that he may have been ill-advised by the city attorney John Harper in regard to information about the so called conflict of interest charges that were leveled at Mr. Miller. Jim resigned and is no longer on the city council. This was a sad day for Grand Terrace when they lost this fine man's services!

On March 20, 2010 Press Enterprise columnist, Cassie MacDuff stated that: "Harper advised Miller to seek legal council about the potential conflict of interest, and the city stopped advertising in it" (Referring to Margie Miller's newspaper).

Why would a city attorney tell a city councilman to "seek legal council"? Isn't that Mr. Harper's job?

Along these same lines of the city attorney ill-advising a city councilman, this same city attorney made false statements that were televised during a Grand Terrace city council meeting on

Oct. 13, 2009. I requested to be on the Oct. 13, 2009 agenda but was not informed that my request was granted so I did not attend. I did however request a tape of the meeting to review and found his statements to be incorrect. He said that the Environmental Impact Report for the Metrolink Perris Valley line had been completed. I immediately e-mailed John Standiford, Deputy Director of RCTC and he replied that the EIR had not been completed.

I then sent an e-mail to the Mayor of Grand Terrace and each member of the Grand Terrace City Council with the correct information.

**The EIR is coming up for approval next month so your comments are needed at the public hearing on the Highgrove Metrolink on April 14, 2010 at 9:30 am at 4080 Lemon St. in Riverside. Please visit our web: [www.highgrovehappenings.net](http://www.highgrovehappenings.net) and click on Metrolink and "Wrong Track" on the map.** Call (951) 683 4994 if you need a ride to this important meeting.

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# HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS



Carroll Shelby was the 2010 honoree at the "Legends of Riverside II" on March 26-28, 2010. The line was so long to get autographs from these racing legends that by the time we got within a few feet, Carroll, had to stop because he was getting writing cramps. However, we did get autographs from Dan Gurney who was last year's honoree, and Parnelli Jones. We also talked with Dick Guldstrand who is known as "Mr Corvette".

The 3 day event included a film festival of old race cars from Riverside Raceway that were shown on two 10 ft. by 10 ft. screens in the Museum building. Most of the race cars were in the building across the street where the celebrities signed autographs.



Dan Gurney was kept busy signing autographs for the fans on Saturday. The race car shown below, number 48, is one of the cars that Dan used to drive that is on display at the museum.



We enjoyed watching the film "F1 Comparo" that started on a road course with an everyday Honda sedan leaving alone, then 20 seconds later a Porsche left the starting line to see if he could catch the Honda

before it reached the finish line. It showed Michael Shoemaker getting dressed and putting his helmet on then leaving in a Formula 1 from the same starting line 1 minute and 59 seconds later. The Formula 1 race car won!

The simulator-the safe way to learn how to race!



This driver is shown in the simulator. Every action is transmitted to the seat including the bumpy ride he feels if he gets off of the track. The 2 vertical seat shocks really go crazy when he gets in the dirt. He is also wearing 3-D glasses.



Parnelli Jones, center, was also at the "Legends of Riverside II" and was kind enough to pose for a picture with Ardie and me. We had a great time!

If you have not been to the museum it is well worth the \$5.00 cost of admission. Just go to the end of Marlborough Ave. at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain and turn left at the last driveway. There is a large building on the right side with a sign like the one at the top of this page. Tell Bruce: "Barney sent me"!

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# HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

## DEVILS DEN

by Dennis Wilds

(continued from last month)

### Normal childhood



I know there is no such thing as a normal childhood. The closest thing to Dick and Jane I ever saw was during adolescence in Guernsey, California one summer day. That's the day I finally had to admit to myself that I was not and probably never was going to be a NORMAL KID. To fully understand my idea of normal it is time to introduce you to a miserable man whose life I am sure I personally made a little more miserable for the six years he lived with my family. That would be Billy Ray Morphis. Even as an eleven year old I knew he could never have my respect. This lazy, musically talented man was tormented by alcoholism and eventually Parkinsonian symptoms. Having served in the navy during world war two, he suffered from self diagnosed shell shock. For whatever reasons, he stayed drunk most days. At first he was a source of amusement until he drug the family down with him into chronic poverty. His big claim to fame had been his stint on the Louisiana Hayride entertainment show after the war. He could sing, play the piano, and guitar but he could not do manual labor. While a shovel or hoe did not fit his grip, he could drink with both hands. Being poor is one thing but our worst economic times were the six years he lived with us, meaning me, my mother, and my sister, Anna Jane. By now I was going on twelve years old and my mom was running the Guernsey Café and Bar.

There was a gas pump and rental cabins at the Guernsey intersection on Kansas Avenue about ten miles out of Hanford, California. Bill was in charge of the beer joint aspect of the operation and I was the cleaning crew and dish washer and all around flunkey.

Today was house painting day and by eleven o'clock Bill showed up at the open window of the house we were renting with a can of Olympia beer in his hand. Like the mental child he was, Bill said "Ha Ha Ha, you've got to paint and I don't." With that my sister, Anna Jane pushed a paint roller full of yellow paint up his neck, over his ear, and over the top of his comb over hair do. My older sister always had more courage than brains and I couldn't believe she actually did what she did. I stood there in wonder at the site of this yellow white visage with what looked like a big yellow rooster comb sticking straight into the air. He started cussing at me and climbed through the open window and we vacated the house with him behind me. I headed out the front door across the dirt yard onto the lane headed to Kansas Ave. Turning right onto the paved road I kept ahead of Bill in my worn out high top tennis shoes. I wasn't really worried because I had raced him before and knew I was faster. I kept about thirty feet ahead of him for about a hundred yards when we settled down to a lope. This was Sunday and only one car was on the road with us. The car was a four door late model sedan and was clean compared to the usual dusty work vehicles on Kansas Ave. It was two-tone blue and white car with big wrap around front and back windows. As this car passed Bill and pulled astride of me, the nicely dressed woman in the front passenger seat asked if I was all right. I said yes and she relayed this to her husband, also nicely dressed, who was driving. Incredulous, he leaned over and asked again if I was all right

with this man chasing me. I again said I was ok and added for his relief an explanatory "I can out run him"! I remember him kind of grinning as he shook his head slightly and then drove ahead.

As the car passed I saw them, the NORMAL KIDS in the back seat. The little girl and boy, also dressed nice, had turned and were standing in the back seat looking back at me and Bill with wide eyes. They probably had just left church and couldn't believe what their religious eyes were seeing.

Bill yelled ahead to me, "What did you say to them?" He cussed at me again and the race resumed at full speed for another hundred feet or so when Bill stopped and bent over, hands on his knees panting like the dog he was. I stopped at that point and watched as he slowly caught his breath enough to say "You've got to sleep some time"! With that, he slowly turned and headed back to the house, limping on his bunions in his old dress shoes. He was still mumbling something when I ran past him on my silent thin rubber soled JC Penny tennis shoes, slapping him on the back of the head. With that the race was on again as I led him home at slow gallop. As I write this I distinctly remember not being embarrassed in front of the NORMAL KIDS for some reason. I guess life with Bill was beyond humiliation by this time in my life, and we lived in a continual looney-toon world of nonsensical alcoholic turmoil. When Bill reached the house I was waiting on the porch for him with a cold beer. For the moment all was forgotten as he drank the beer with me standing a good distance off to the side of the porch. In due time, Anna Jane and I resumed painting and Bill cleaned up and returned to bar tending that day. You know, I can't blame anyone for not believing this story, or any of my other stories about my childhood, but the simple fact is they happened just as

you read them. Sadly, they exist in full color memory and I don't even have to enhance the details one bit.

Thinking to myself, I wondered how Dick and Jane's folks would ever explain to them what they had just witnessed on Kansas Avenue. Those two kids were riding safe inside that glass and steel protective bubble with two normal parents close by to shield them from life, while I was on the outside swimming around in my own beer foam filled existence. The poor fools were going nowhere fast in that pathetically limited life of theirs. All I had to worry about now was surviving the next night without Bill catching me asleep! Just as my day presented me with abundant problems, it also taught me unconventional solutions. Imagination and bailing wire can fix almost any problem, so continuing the logic of the day; I went to sleep holding a loaded bow and arrow pointed at the bedroom door. I'm sure glad Bill didn't stumble into my room that night, lost on his way to the bathroom, otherwise I would have shot him for sure. That arrow was the only one of my three that had a steel tip.

One day soon after the bizarre Guernsey slow speed chase I was cleaning the bar and visiting with one of our regular drunks, Mr. Solon. As I remember him he looked like a miniature Dwight D. Eisenhower. If he just sat there on his bar stool and didn't say anything you might think he was intelligent and articulate. He just had that calm, confident look until he finished off his first beer. He was on his monthly social security check sponsored binge drinking and dancing all by himself to the tunes of the juke box. The top half of his body did not match his bottom half gyrations and neither matched the music. Occasionally, he would just stop mid dance and cup his hands and blow a whistle like a train, followed by a laugh

Continued on page 7

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# HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

Continued from page 6

of pure ecstasy. I have to this day never seen a happier drunk. I said to him that he must be feeling good today and I'll never forget what he told me. He said "Dennis, I know I'm going to heaven, cause I've already been to hell". I put a red quarter in the box and punched in the Orange Blossom Special three times and left my mentor for the day to dance on alone. I was learning valuable lessons every day from all these people around me. Mainly, I was learning how not to live. I knew I didn't want to end up like Solon or Bill. The propane man looked promising though. He drove that big important, dangerous bomb of a truck and he had a uniform with a propane flame insignia

on his company jacket. He was somebody for sure. The Yocums owned all the farm land and they were rich too so I kept my eye on how they behaved and lived. But nobody lived up to Dr. Guernsey because he had respect and money and he had saved my life when he removed my ruptured appendix. This is how I had begun to plan my life. I was watching and imitating and when it became apparent to me that education meant better living, I began to pay attention to school. For now that meant Lakeside Elementary School, the third school that sixth grade year I would attend. (To be continued next month)

## Tow trucks remove commercial trailers parked on Center Street



Trailers that had been left over the 72 hour limit were removed by the Riverside County Sheriff Dept. on March 3, 2010. These same 2 trailers were shown in our March issue. Complaints were originally received that resulted in pictures showing children playing on the trucks by the elementary school. Another large truck and trailer was parked directly across the street from the Highgrove United Methodist Church on a Sunday that blocked the crosswalk sign. These pictures appeared in the January issue. The Riverside County Transportation Dept. is in the process of submitting a proposal to restrict parking these large trucks on Center St. between the railroad

tracks and Mt. Vernon Avenue. Exceptions are being considered by allowing temporary parking from 9:00 pm to 7:00 am but details of the agreement have not been approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Trailers from Ontario, Moreno Valley and Compton have been left for up to a week or more between the school and the historic 1890 church.

Since the trailers were towed, there are fewer trailers being left unattended.

We will publish the information when it is received from the Riverside County Transportation Department.

At this time there is no new additional information available.

## Tractor stolen from Library construction site!



The large front loader pictured above was stolen from the site of the new Highgrove library but fortunately was located and returned to service shortly thereafter. The padlock had been cut and the tractor was located behind Johnson Tractor, the Caterpillar dealer on East LaCadena. When they noticed the tractor they checked the serial numbers and called authorities. We thank them for their efforts that resulted in the return of this large piece of equipment that only required minor repairs. Anyone with information please call the Riverside County Sheriff at (951) 255 2600 or (951) 776 1099

Sheriff stats continued from P. 3

ject was cooperative during the search. Deputies advised the subject his progress would be monitored.

### Jurupa Valley Community Action Team Update:

On 03/20/10, members of the Jurupa Valley CAT Team performed an early morning parole sweep in key locations in Highgrove. A residence located in the 1400 block of Villa St., was targeted due to reports of possible narcotic activity and individuals on parole staying at the location. Upon arrival at the location Team Members observed a male adult running from the location. A short foot pursuit ensued and the subject was taken into custody.

Team Members searched the location and found evidence of narcotic use and possible identity theft and credit card fraud occurring. As a result of their effort, two male adults and one female

were taken into custody.

### 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.

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# HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

## WRONG TRACK continued from page 1

coaches are needed. (Coaches are \$1.96 million each). Also, there is no Centralized Traffic Control system at all on the Perris Valley Line track! CTC is a traffic signal system for trains that allows the train dispatcher to control train movements from their control point in San Bernardino. The San Bernardino train dispatcher is now able to give existing freight trains a signal into or out of the Perris Valley Line track at Main Street. But once the entire train is on the track to Perris, there are no CTC signals for 38 miles where the track dead-ends in San Jacinto. A whole new train signal system has to be installed between Highgrove and Perris.

**Highgrove is cost effective:** The Highgrove Metrolink station location does not need any new track improvements or CTC signal system, or new engines, or coaches, and no new crew members are needed. The commuter train schedule is already established between Riverside and San Bernardino and all that is needed is a platform to stop some of the existing trains where there is ample room for parking. The Highgrove location would save several million dollars because additional property of 10 or more acres would not have to be purchased at Palmyrita Ave., Columbia Ave. or Marlborough Ave. for another station. Building a station on a track where there will not be any commuter trains for several years is a waste of our tax money especially when there are existing commuter trains every day of the week only 1/2 mile away with better destinations.

Location, location, location-Highgrove is the most logical location and most cost effective way to spend our tax money to address the present and future transportation needs of the region. \$232.69 Million of our tax dollars should be spent to benefit the entire region on both sides of the county line

and not just 2 locations within Riverside County. And 3,224 commuter trains per year will literally take thousands of vehicles off of our freeways!

**SOLUTION: BUILD A METROLINK STATION IN HIGHGROVE RIGHT NEXT TO THE BNSF MAIN LINE WHERE THERE ARE EXISTING COMMUTER TRAINS!**

**HERE IS WHAT YOU CAN DO! Please look at our website for additional information:**

[www.highgrovehappenings.net](http://www.highgrovehappenings.net)

Spread the word via e-mail and ask your friends to contact our Federal and State politicians listed below and ask that our tax money be used to build a Metrolink station in Highgrove!

Please send your comments to:

### Federal Transit Administration

Mr. Leslie Rogers, Region 9  
201 Mission St. Suite 1650  
San Francisco, Ca.  
94105-1839

[leslie.rogers@dot.gov](mailto:leslie.rogers@dot.gov)

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### Southern California Regional Rail Authority

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### Southern California Association of Governments

818 W. Seventh St. 12<sup>th</sup> floor  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90017  
[rushen@scag.ca.gov](mailto:rushen@scag.ca.gov)

Attn. Hasan Ikhrata, Executive Director  
(213) 236 1800

### Senator Bob Dutton

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Riverside, CA 92501  
(951) 715 2625

(951) 715 2627 fax

[senator.dutton@sen.ca.gov](mailto:senator.dutton@sen.ca.gov)

### Assemblyman Brian Nestande

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Riverside, CA 92507  
(951) 369-6644

(951) 369 0366 fax

[briannestande@asm.ca.gov](mailto:briannestande@asm.ca.gov)

### Assemblyman Kevin Jeffries

41391 Kalmia St. Suite 220  
Murrieta, Ca. 92562  
(951) 894 1232

(951) 894 5053 fax

[assemblymemberjeffries@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymemberjeffries@assembly.ca.gov)

### Assemblymember Wilmer Carter

335 N. Riverside Ave.  
Rialto, CA 92376  
(909)820 5008

(909) 820 5098 fax

[assemblymember.carter@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.carter@assembly.ca.gov)

### Assemblyman Bill Emmerson

10681 Foothill Blvd. Ste 325  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730  
(909) 466-9096

(909) 466 9892 fax

[assemblymemberemmerson@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymemberemmerson@assembly.ca.gov)

### Congressman Ken Calvert

3400 Central Ave. Suite 200  
Riverside, CA 92506  
(951) 784-4300

(951) 784 5255 fax

[www.calvert.house.gov](http://www.calvert.house.gov)

### Congressman Jerry Lewis

1150 Brookside Ave. #J-5  
Redland, CA 92373  
(909) 862-6030

(909) 335-9155 fax

[www.house.gov/jerrylewis](http://www.house.gov/jerrylewis)

### Congressman Joe Baca

201 N. "E" St. Suite 102  
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[cong.baca@mail.house.gov](mailto:cong.baca@mail.house.gov)

### Mobility 21-Six County Coalition

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### San Bernardino Associated Governments

1170 W. Third St.  
San Bernardino. Ca. 92410-1721  
(909) 884 8276

Attention Barbara Robinson Barmack  
[dbarmack@sanbag.ca.gov](mailto:dbarmack@sanbag.ca.gov)

**PLEASE WRITE OR E-MAIL ANY OF THESE REPRESENTATIVES AND SEND A COPY TO:** R. A. "Barney" Barnett, 474 Prospect Ave., Highgrove, Ca. 92507, or to: [highgrovenews@roadrunner.com](mailto:highgrovenews@roadrunner.com) to add your comments to the EIR.

### New concrete entry for Highgrove Community Park

On March 9, 2010 a new vehicle entrance was made at the north end of Highgrove Community Park on Main Street. The concrete ramp will be used by the Pony League to supply the snack bar and for the car show on May 8, 2010.

The ramp will have a locked post to prevent unauthorized vehicle access that can be removed for special events. Redevelopment funds were used thanks to Supervisor Ashley.





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Supervisor  
**Marion Ashley**

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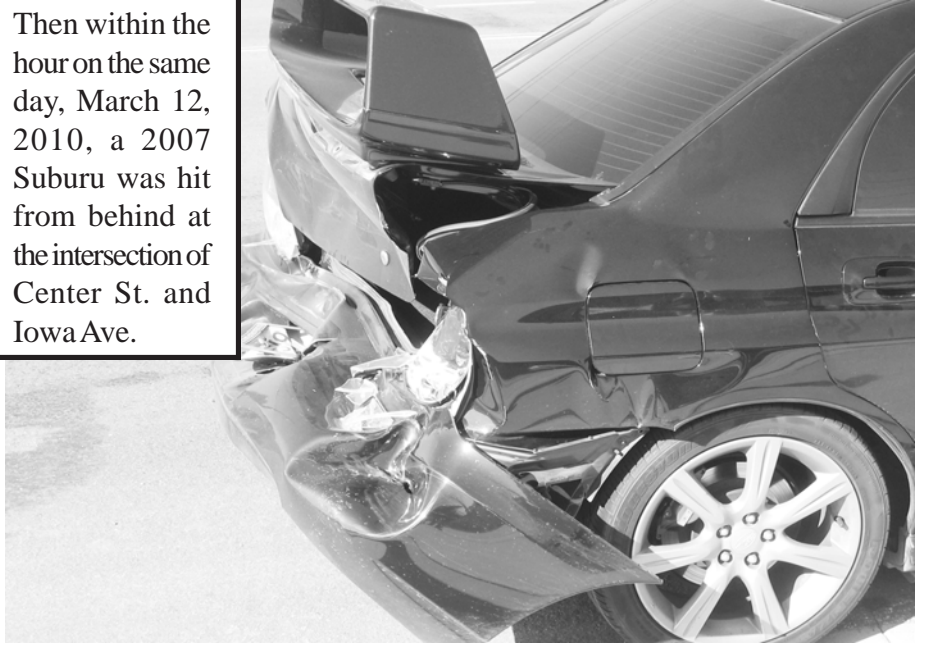
# HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

## Two traffic accidents on the same day- again!

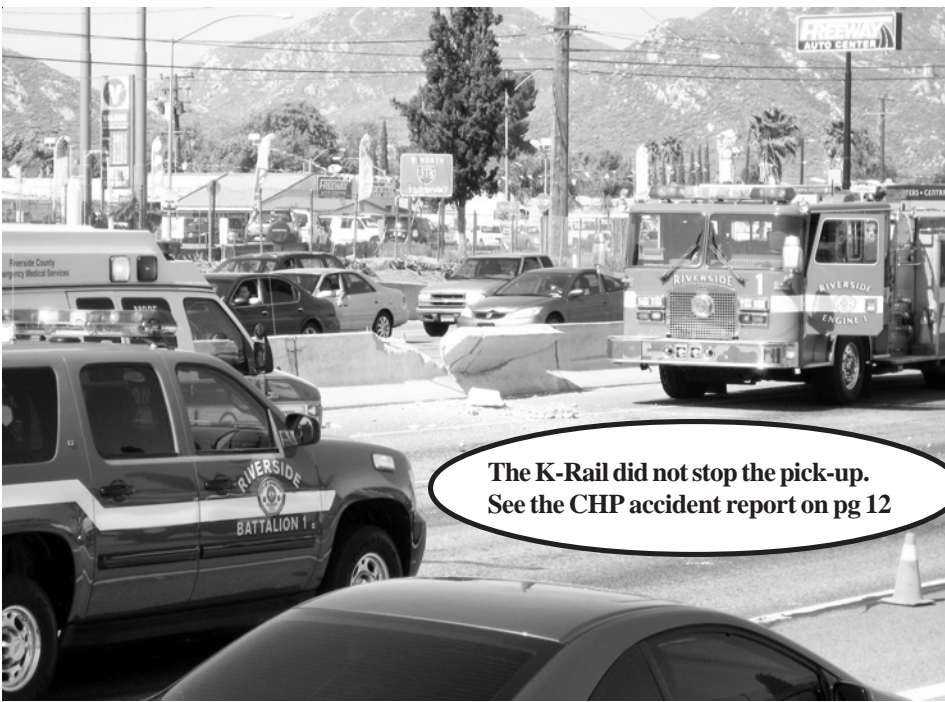
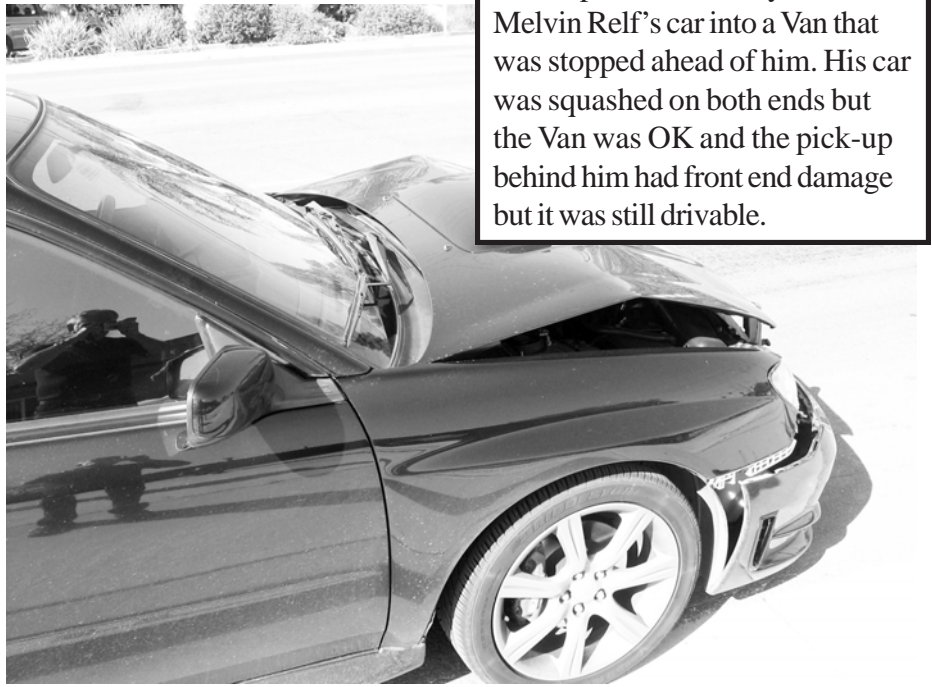
This southbound pick-up truck was rear-ended, crashed through the freeway barrier and flipped upside down into oncoming traffic. Firemen are shown underneath the bed of the truck trying to get the driver out. Luckily the driver only had minor injuries!



Then within the hour on the same day, March 12, 2010, a 2007 Subaru was hit from behind at the intersection of Center St. and Iowa Ave.



The impact shoved 18 year old Melvin Relf's car into a Van that was stopped ahead of him. His car was squashed on both ends but the Van was OK and the pick-up behind him had front end damage but it was still drivable.



The K-Rail did not stop the pick-up. See the CHP accident report on pg 12

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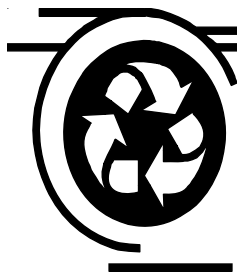
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# HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS



## REUSE RECYCLE

BY CYNTHIA WILLIAMS DC

Earth Day 2010 is coming: but Earth Day is EVERY DAY! The idea of cherishing and protecting the planet came out of the 60's "hippy movement". Since that time, a new generation has taken up the effort to save resources and renew the planet. April 22 brings the green out of everyone and is a day to remind us of the importance of our efforts to save this planet from ourselves. It is the daily contribution that will make the difference in the long run. It may seem that our individual efforts are a drop in the bucket, however if we put our drops together, we get a bucketful of effort. Encourage others to do the same. We may not get to see the results, but be assured, your efforts do matter! Teaching our children to make these efforts part of their daily lifestyle will have a definite impact in the future.

Please observe these daily "Earthkeeping" efforts:

- Keep reusable shopping bags handy
- Recycle ALL used batteries
- Recycle cardboard, plastics, newspapers, magazines, packaging
- Organize your errands to get more done on a gallon of gas
- Shop locally and local Farmer's Markets
- Carpool when possible
- Keep your cars tires at the proper psi and your engine maintained

- Make sure your sprinklers are not leaking and are running at the minimum needed for your plantings/grass
- Plant less grass and more drought-tolerant ground covers
- Plant trees
- Use a mulching mower and avoid grass clippings in the trash
- Compost kitchen scraps
- Use organic plant food instead of commercial fertilizers
- Avoid the use of bleach, ammonia and chemical cleaners
- Use rags instead of paper towels
- Use higher energy appliances in the early morning and at night
- Turn off un-needed lighting
- Thoughtfully "re-gift" those items that are not wanted
- Donate unwanted household items to a local thrift store or shelter
- Refill soaps, lotions, and cleaning solutions from larger containers
- Install rain barrels to capture our rain water for your garden use
- Use pool covers to keep water from evaporating
- Don't let water run unused
- Have your name removed from junk mailer lists

Remember the order: first REDUCE, next REUSE, lastly RECYCLE Please review my previous articles for more information on how to do many of the things listed above. Please — Keep Earth Day in your life EVERY day.

## Columbia Ave. overpass is now open!



Photo by Michael Elderman

L-R: Riverside City Councilman Chris MacArthur-ward 5, Mike Gardner-ward 1, Mayor Ron Loveridge, Councilman Andy Melendrez-ward 2, and Rusty Bailey-ward 3 cutting the ribbon to open the Columbia overpass.

If you don't know by now, the Columbia Ave. overpass over the BNSF railroad tracks was opened on March 11, 2011.

The new bridge features a pedestrian sidewalk and 4 lanes of traffic which can be expanded to 5 lanes in the future. The final cost is estimated at \$30 million dollars which is 6% less than originally estimated.

The overpass was completed in just

15 months to accommodate cars passing over the BNSF railroad tracks between Iowa Ave. and East La Cadena Drive. 1600+ vehicles will never have to wait for the 100+ trains per day saving about 5 hours of daily commute time and 29 tons of greenhouse gas emissions every year.

Thank you Cindie Perry who contributed information for this press release.



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# HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

## A "LOVING" LOOK AT POLITICS

by Jerry Loving

### How Congress Votes

I believe that we, the people, were shocked by how the House of Representative members were trying to find a way to pass the healthcare Bill without their respective voters knowing how they voted on the passing of the Bill. In other words, they did not want their respective voters to hold them accountable for how they voted. Although knowing that a large majority of the population openly expressed their opposition to the healthcare Bill, it was passed and sent to the President to be signed into Law.

I won't go into detail about what the U.S. Constitution prescribes as the procedure for passing a Bill, but the bottom line is that both the House and Senate MUST vote on each Bill presented for a vote. Even I, as someone who worked in D.C. most of his adult life was caught by surprise when the House wanted to "Deem" the Healthcare passed without voting for the Bill. This should be a warning sign to all of us that our Congressional leaders are constantly looking for ways to circumvent the constitution and also hide from scrutiny by the voters.

Before the House or Senate members can vote, there must be a majority of members present. In other words, there must be at least 51 Senators present and 218 House member

present to call for a vote on a Bill.

Most Bills presented to Congress are passed by a majority vote. Of course there are a lot of political conditions that push the respective member to vote a certain way. In most cases, members vote along Party lines for at least two reasons: One, the voters' in his district that voted him or her into office, follow one of the Party lines and two, campaign contributions by Political Action committees (PAC's,) Party, corporate and individual contributions, depending on the total depending upon which entity gave the most.

Also, a member may vote a certain way to gain influence with the respective committee chairman, or the Speaker of the House or the Senate Pro Temp (Vice-President). Very seldom does a member vote his conscience.

Now, a Bill can pass by receiving a majority of votes. However, in special occasions, a 2/3rd's vote is required if the Bill or issue being considered is a Treaty with a foreign country, a Bill which failed to get a majority but is re-submitted for consideration, a member is being considered for expulsion, the States are electing a President or vice-President. And, the 2/3rd's requirement for electing a President or vice-President also applies to each States' Legislature voting procedures.

There is one exception where a 3/4th vote is required and that is, ac-

ording to the 22nd amendment applies when a President wants to serve more than 2 terms. However, no President since Franklin D. Roosevelt has served more than two terms or requested to be considered for a third term.

In conclusion, in all of these influences upon an elected official, the one that scares him or her most is the voters that elected him to office. No matter how much money a member raises

or gets from all of the entities listed above, it comes down to Election Day. So, remember, on Election Day, please vote. It is your vote that preserves this nation as a Republic and allows us to function as a Democracy.

*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"*



We also sat with Andy Salveggio on Friday and again on Saturday. Andy used to race his 59 Corvette at Riverside Raceway. For those of you who do not know, Riverside Raceway (1957-1988) is now occupied by the huge shopping center in Moreno Valley south of the 60 freeway and east of the 15 freeway. These and other valuable cars and race cars are located only about **1 mile south of Highgrove at 815 Marlborough Ave. Suite 200 by Sugarloaf Mountain.** For more information please call (951) 369 6966 or [www.riversideinternational.org](http://www.riversideinternational.org) "Thank you" Bruce and Doug for the hospitality. It was a great event!

## HIGHGROVE VILLAGE MARKET

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<p>40 oz Budweiser Bud Light 2 for \$5.50 + tax CRV</p>	<p>12 pk bottles Heiken Beer \$12.99 + tax CRV</p>	<p>New Castle Beer \$12.99 + tax CRV</p>
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# HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

## VIRGINIA'S VIEWPOINT

by Virginia Harford

### BLUE MOUNTAIN

Have you ever looked up there at Blue Mountain and wondered why it is called "blue"? Have you gone any further with that inquiry or just gone on about your business and considered it just another thing to ignore? Several of you sent me messages that you would like to know why it is called Blue Mountain. I have more information than we have space for in our little newspaper but here goes: I went to my trusty computer and saw hits too numerous to mention in this essay. But if you are really interested then look at the one (Blue Mountain hit on your computer) and see that the Hotel Blue Mountain in Ontario, Canada is a beautiful hotel and appropriate at this time because of the olympics held there recently.

There are at least a dozen and maybe a lot more Blue Mountain designations if you have the time to look at all of them. Several are in the U.S. and in Europe. One is in Australia.

But I want to talk about our Blue Mountain in Grand Terrace. It is about 500 square miles in area, according to Denis Kidd who owns about 40 acres, Dr. Sigdestad also owns another piece. Loma Linda appears to own some of it and I believe the Coptic Church owns some of it too.

Our Blue Mountain was named early in its history because in the spring the lupin and other flowers bloomed in profusion and when viewed from Grand Terrace it is (sort of) a blue sight. There are not many truly blue flowers in na-

ture but there are some: bachelor button, lupin, morning glory, and others. Some flowers that are really lavender or purple can sort of qualify. It probably depends on your eyesight.

Maria and Dominic Marotta have lived in Grand Terrace for 41 years. She says that she doesn't even look at it much but she does remember seeing it looking blue once or twice. Mike Breckenridge says that he does not understand why it is not named Mt. Petta after our first Mayor, Tony Petta. He said that we named a park after Richard Rollins and a mini park after the late Susan Petta, Tony and Ann's daughter. We named a little memorial park that is on Mt. Vernon near the middle school after Barney Karger's late wife, Gwen. It is beautiful little place for stopping while on a walk and saying a prayer or just resting.

Burt and Debra Seuylemezian said almost in unison that, "We are in complete accord with Denis Kidd and his plan to turn it into a park." Denis Kidd is the person spearheading the acquisition of Blue Mountain as a park for Grand Terrace. He is also footing some of the bills for the Blue Mountain walk and the Foundation not to mention of course the sale of the mountain property.

I took a drive over to Reche Canyon and drove about five miles south of Barton Road to Center Street and drove up into the hills to see the Coptic church. I don't know for sure if the church is on Blue Mountain territory but the drive is worthwhile. You really need

to take about two hours so that you can get out of your car and enjoy the views from all directions. This is especially true right now since we have had so much rain and the area has benefited greatly from the showers. I can't remember when it has been so green and beautiful. There are flowers and bushes and grasses and trees. It is just lovely. At this point in time the area is not restricted to residents. Denis Kidd wants to fence the park if he accomplishes his mission.

I know I started out talking about Blue Mountain and I think I have probably said enough. Barney will get after me if I get too long winded.

### A COMEDY OF ERRORS

During lunchtime at the Grand Terrace Senior Center on March 23, the company that furnished the tables, chairs, overstuffed chairs, highboys, pool tables, anything that wasn't nailed down came to the center with a big truck and removed all of it. I am not kidding you, all of it. No one questioned them, not Betsy Adams, our new City Manager, not JoAnne the manager of the center.

One man, Don Davis who is a board member told the men unequivocally that they were taking things that belonged to the seniors such as expensive pool

table covers, a painting that Marjorie and Paul Owens had given the seniors and more. Don told them to bring those things back and they did. It was truly a comedy of errors. While we were having lunch in the dining room two police officers were giving a talk about how to prevent Identity Theft. Now if that doesn't fit for irony I don't know what does.

The City had not paid the bill for the furnishings and the company decided that if they weren't going to get their money then they were taking back the furniture. I would have told them to go to Hell, we didn't like the furniture anyway.

I have furniture and paintings that I can donate to the center and many others do too. In the meantime we borrowed tables and chairs and have not had an interruption of our lunches.

Thanks for reading my column. It was fun to write about. If you have more information to add please call and let me know. (909 825-7800) 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"*

### CHP Accident report

On March 12, 2010 at approximately 1:07 PM, Ms. Ashley N. Meinberg, (female, 20, Riverside) was driving a 2003 Hyundai Tiburon traveling southbound on I-215 south of Center Street in the Highgrove area at approximately 65 MPH. Mr. John L. Vahle (male, 55, Menifee) was driving a 2003 Ford Ranger, traveling ahead of Ms. Meinberg at approximately 45 MPH. Ms. Meinberg failed to observe traffic ahead slowing and struck the rear end of the Ford. The force of the impact caused both vehicles to travel out of control and strike the center divider. Mr. Vahle's Ford overturned and traveled through the center divider into northbound lanes. A tractor trailer, driven by Mr. Raymond G. Sawtillan (male, 50, Colton) was traveling northbound when it was struck by the Ford. Two other vehicles traveling in the northbound lanes were struck by flying debris. Mr. Vahle was wearing his seatbelt at the time of the collision and sustained minor injuries; he was transported by AMR to Riverside Community Hospital. There were no other reported injuries. No arrests or citations were issued in reference to this collision.



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# HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

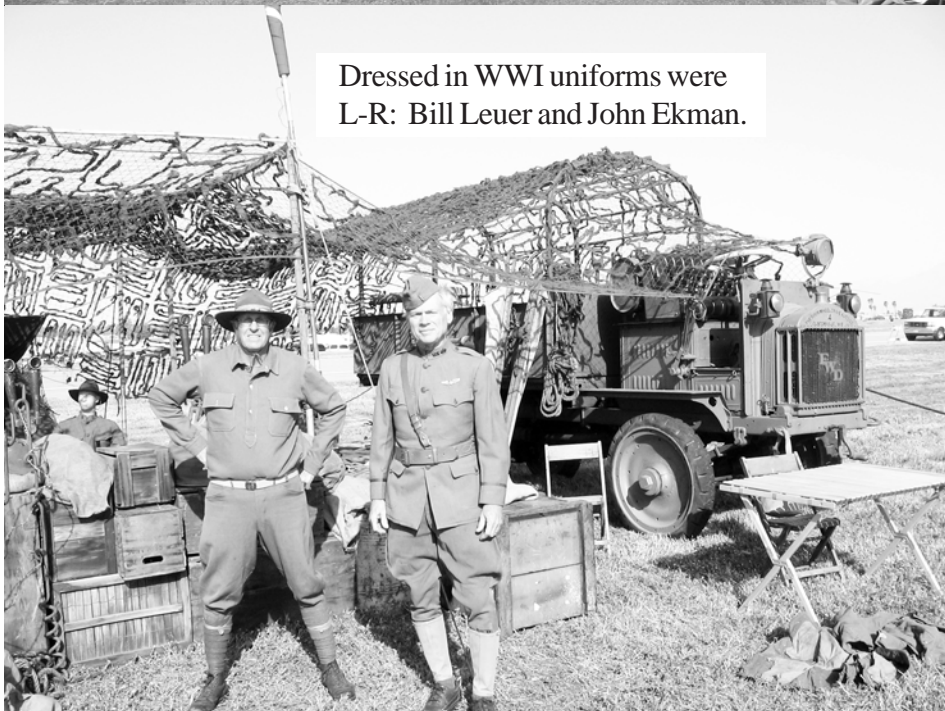
## 18th Annual Riverside Air Show

March 27, 2010

This Bi-plane was named "Big Panda" and was one of the old airplanes on display.



Dressed in WWI uniforms were L-R: Bill Leuer and John Ekman.



This Ontario Police helicopter was moved along with another helicopter that was parked in front of the C-17 shown at the bottom left. The plane on the lower right is a Russian fighter plane. Shortly thereafter the C-17 started up and backed up which was something I did not know they could do. The exhaust from the engines is reversed and pushes the plane backwards as a crew member on the rear loading platform directs the pilot via radio.



Mike Swan

The C-47 below is not the plane used by the Skydivers. I talked to Mike Swan, 57 from Lake Elsinore who has been Skydiving for 30 years and has made over 4,000 jumps and to Ken Benner of the Civil Air Patrol. Mike was grounded due to gusty winds.



This jet powered dragster starts from a dead stop and when an airplane passes overhead the race is on. The Smoke-N-Thunder Jet Show's moto is: "Speeding across America supporting the USO until every one comes home". It is loud and fast!



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*Real Estate statistics for MARCH 2010*

**New Properties Sold in HIGHGROVE AND SURROUNDING AREAS in FEBRUARY:**

ADDRESS	BR	BA	YR	SQ.FT	PRICE	DATE
175 Carlin Lane	4	3	2005	1,830	\$265,000	3/22
1233 Palmer Street	3	1	1948	982	\$57,000	3/24
918 Center Street	2	1	1950	1,200	\$46,500	3/29

**MONTHLY TRENDS:**

As of 03/2010	# of Homes
Total properties available for sale:	6
Total properties pending a sale in escrow:	5
Total Properties sold YTD:	6

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# HIGHGROVE HAPPENINGS

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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 month's 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: \_\_\_\_\_

This month's winner is Brianna Snowball, age 11. Brianna is the daughter of Anelle Snowball who is in the "Jumper" business and will have one of her jumpers at Highgrove Day on May 8, 2010. Brianna goes to Terrace View school and is in the 6th grade. Her teacher is Mrs. Herrera. Congratulations Brianna!



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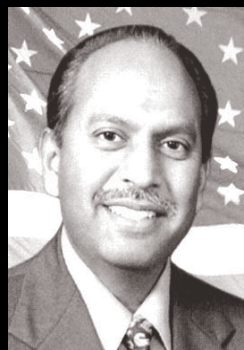
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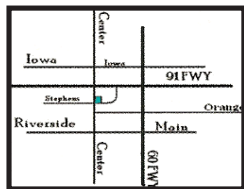
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### Writers

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