



viewpoints

FALL 2014

Volume 45 Issue 1

A Community Newsletter from the Grossmont – Mt. Helix Improvement Association

GMIA Gets Results

You asked! At our Annual Meeting in June, GMIA members asked Supervisor Dianne Jacob for help with a spectrum of issues. Thank you to everyone who spoke out or wrote with concerns that affect our quality of life here in the Grossmont-Mt. Helix region.

We are pleased to report that Supervisor Jacob and her capable staff are working with GMIA to address issues highlighted at the meeting. Here is an update on a few of those items:

PAVING ON CALAVO: Members reported that Calavo, a heavily traveled road in our area, is in very poor condition and had not been paved in decades.

What's been done: Within 30 days, the Department of Public Works completed paving repairs from the SR-94 as far as 4256 Calavo. Next step: GMIA has asked Supervisor Jacob to request continuation of the repairs along this road.

UNDERGROUNDING OF UTILITIES: Members asked for undergrounding of ugly utility poles and lines to improve the Mt. Helix views.

What's been done: Supervisor Jacob had the San Diego County Department of Public Works Capital Improvement Section contact GMIA with extensive information about the process of funding, timelines, and priorities. Using the guidelines provided, GMIA has submitted a letter requesting undergrounding of utilities. The committee that reviews undergrounding requests meets monthly, so we'll let you know of their determination. If our request is approved, we recognize this is a very long-term project due to budget considerations.

However, GMIA knows that it will NEVER happen unless we get started today. So, we have started!

OXBOW INN PROPERTY: Several members raised the issue of the derelict Oxbow Inn on Campo Road, located on GMIA's southern border.

What's been done: Supervisor Jacob arranged a meeting of the landlord, GMIA, and various stakeholders who have an interest in seeing this shamble cleaned up. As a result of the meeting, we understand landlord's perspective of not spending any money because he is hoping to attract a "big box" tenant and build a new large building. Unfortunately, the property has been empty for 12 years (5 years of which the current owner has been seeking a tenant), with no prospective tenant in the pipeline.

Code enforcement inspected but didn't find any violations, so the County's hands are pretty much tied. Supervisor Jacob offered to check to see if any County agencies might consider locating in the property. GMIA has made a case for the County to "think big" and consider a stand-alone library to serve our community. We will continue to advocate for positive change and welcome your ideas or suggestions.



GMIA is proud to have offered a platform for our members to voice concerns. We can't wave a magic wand to make every problem instantly disappear, but we are moving forward and appreciate the timely follow-up by Supervisor Jacob. We also greatly appreciate our members who took the time to let us know how we can improve our community. Thanks so much!





GROSSMONT-MT. HELIX
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Officers

Susan Nichols, President
440-1607

Larry Nichols, Treasurer/Membership
440-1607

Kay Bickley, Secretary
318-5260

Directors

Sue Creveling	Jeff Rule
Kathleen Hedberg	Pat Ryan
Allison Henderson	Mark Schuppert
Tom Huffman	Michael Sciulli
Dagmar Miller	Mike Valley
Don Newcom	Holly Yarris
Tom Osteen	Dave Zimmerman

Viewpoints is a community newsletter published by the Grossmont – Mt. Helix Improvement Association. Letters to the Editor should be sent to P. O. Box 2751, La Mesa, CA 91943-2751.

This newsletter reflects the efforts of your entire Board of Directors.

Editor: Susan Nichols

Design & Layout: Victoria Vinton,
Coyote Press Graphic
Communications

www.gmia.net

MISSION

GMIA is a 75+ year old nonprofit 501(c)4 public benefit membership organization. Our mission is to preserve and enhance the character and quality of the community and foster pride in the area. We do not employ a paid staff and are served by an all-volunteer board.

Message from the President

As we go to print with this newsletter, email responses to our survey from our members have been coming in for just a few days.

The first thing we learned is that we needed to correct our survey! We asked what GMIA activities you are interested in, and our template allowed only one selection. Many members commented that they wanted to list multiple events. (We've corrected the problem for future survey participants.)

Here is some early information we've garnered from the survey:

- ◆ The majority of respondents to date have told us the #1 priority is water rates, followed by public safety & crime, and land use. GMIA appreciates how critical water rates are for our community. Please see the article that follows endorsing Helix Water District board candidates Kathleen Hedberg and Steven Rotsart. This is a very local election and every vote counts—we encourage you to support these candidates.
- ◆ The largest percentage of members who responded (41%) have lived in our area for 30 years or more: we are here for the long haul.
- ◆ A majority of members preferred to continue receiving their printed Viewpoints in black & white rather than pay for color printing. Some members encouraged us to completely forego printing and only provide the newsletter online. We appreciate their perspective but recognize that we have many members who do not wish to share their email contact with us. For those members who would like to “go green,” please email us yourgmianeighbor@gmail.com. You will receive the online edition in beautiful full color.
- ◆ We received lots of great suggestions and comments for consideration by your GMIA Board of Directors at our upcoming Strategic Planning Retreat. Thank you! We will provide updates as we move forward.

We will send the email survey again and hope that, if you haven't already done so, you will take a few minutes to answer our 6 brief questions. Also, we've included a printed copy of the survey in this newsletter if you prefer to use postal mail. Complete and return to GMIA, P.O. Box 2751, La Mesa, CA 91943.

Thank you for taking the time to make suggestions and let us know of issues that need to be addressed. Please know we value your opinion and hope to hear



Susan Nichols

GMIA Endorses Steven Rotsart and Kathleen Hedberg for the Helix Water District Board

While not organized for political purposes, GMIA does recognize that elected officials are responsible for decisions and actions that impact the quality of life in our community. As most members know, your GMIA Board of Directors has a long standing policy of formulating recommendations regarding candidates for all non-partisan elected offices that directly affect our GMIA community.

Your Board of Directors of the Grossmont-Mt. Helix Improvement Association is deeply concerned about the future of the business model supported by a majority of the current Helix Water District Board. The Helix Water District Board, among their other responsibilities, approve water rates for 262,000 customers in the East County.

The Helix Water Board consists of five Directors whom you and I elect to represent us—the customers. The Board meets twice monthly to vote on recommendations presented by the staff and others.

In the recent past, we have observed:

- ◆ Water rates have increased well over 70% in the last seven years, ostensibly due to the increased cost of that precious resource—water. However fully half of the District’s budget is *not* water—it is employee



compensation and benefits for staff, facilities, maintenance and capital improvements. The pay scales for District staff are typically above that for private industry, especially when taking into account benefits including pension for life, health and vision care for entire family (until recently, also for life).

- ◆ The District’s unfunded benefits (again, pension and health insurance for retirees) are higher than any other Water District by far (over \$50 million)—a liability passed on to ratepayers who may think they are paying for water.
- ◆ The District’s capital improvements are on a “pay as you go” basis, rather than funded by debt/bond (as with most private industry) – which means that we ratepayers are paying now for assets that will be in use for decades to come. Fully 15% of this fiscal year’s budget is for capital improvements/replacements.
- ◆ Many decisions end up with a 3-2 vote, with the same Directors in the majority for nearly all split votes.
- ◆ Directors Kathleen Hedberg and Joel Scalzitti (the minority) raise questions, offer alternatives, and listen to customer concerns expressed at Board Meetings and in writing.

See **ENDORSEMENT** on page 5



**GMIA endorses incumbent Kathleen Hedberg,
who is being challenged by Maria Mariscal.
Division 4**



**GMIA endorses Steven Rotsart,
who is challenging De Ana Verbeke for her seat.
Division 2**



Progress Report for the 125/94 Connector Ramp

by Guy Halgren

For literally decades, GMIA has been working to have Caltrans construct a connector ramp between southbound 125 and eastbound 94. Because of a lack of funding, when the 125/94 interchange was originally built, this connector as well as the westbound 94 to northbound 125 connector were deleted. A low-cost ground level connector between WB-94 and NB-125 was installed several years ago with very significant influence from GMIA.

The SB-125/EB-94 ramp is important to us because it would keep traffic on the freeways and off of our surface streets, such as Bancroft and Fuerte. As it is, many motorists avoid the current hassle of exiting SB-125 at Spring Street and then looping around on surface streets to EB-94. They instead drive through our neighborhoods. Additionally, we support the SB-125/EB-94 ramp because it would benefit all of us who drive through this intersection by removing a major bottleneck at the Spring Street off ramp.

We are pleased to report continuing progress on the SB-125/EB-94 ramp. Most recently, on August 6, Caltrans held a meeting of interested parties, including GMIA. Caltrans specifically recognized us for our work on, and support of, this project. The proposed design for the ramp is ingenious and very cost effective. Rather than constructing a massive and expensive fly over ramp, the ramp will be almost entirely below grade, leaving SB-125 at about the Mariposa Street bridge then swooping under Panorama Drive, 125 and 94 before joining EB-94 around the Bancroft exit. Caltrans believes it can construct the ramp with a minimum of impact on motorists by working at night. Only one weekend closure of 125 should be required. Also—and this is significant—the proposed design retains a Mariposa Street bridge over 125 and a Panorama Drive underpass under 125, thereby maintaining full neighborhood access.

Caltrans is nearing completion on the draft environmental document. Assuming that goes well, the project will move into final design. Caltrans will then seek final funding. Adequate funds have been identified, and Caltrans believes they should be available. Construction would begin in 2018 and end in 2019.

In summary, the project is making good progress, but there are still several hurdles to cross before we actually have a ramp in place. ▲

Curbside Appeal

by Tom Huffman

We are all in this together!

I believe we all want to live in a beautiful, clean and safe neighborhood and we all rely on each other to make this happen. It's important for everyone to realize that the appearance of their property affects not only themselves but all members of the community. GMIA encourages everyone to take special pride in maintaining their properties in the best possible condition in order to contribute to our common goals.

We hope you will make a special effort to maintain your property—especially areas that are visible from the street and that make a big difference in community character. You may also have a neighbor who could use help, or weed strewn corner you'd like to clean up. GMIA welcomes volunteers to help us with our monthly clean up at the I-8/Fuerte Park & Ride. We'll be there on October 18th to maintain our adopted location and hope you will join us.

GMIA sponsors events like our Annual Art & Garden Tour and plant exchanges, and features articles in this newsletter to help promote better care of our properties. We encourage our members to do what they can on their own properties in the spirit of improving the look and feel of our neighborhood. ▲



ENDORSEMENTS from page 3

We recognize that the Helix Water District Board should not have an adversarial position with agency staff. Rather, we suggest their role should be that of a watchdog to provide oversight particularly with regard to financial stewardship. They are spending *our* money.

On November 4th, four candidates are seeking two seats for four year terms on the Helix Water District Board of Directors. Each seat, or Division, carries its own race and has drawn two candidates, who must reside in the Division they represent. Your ballot will only list the candidates for your Division’s geographical area.

Water is a necessity not a luxury. GMIA does recognize that the Helix Water District has an excellent record of providing high quality potable water to its customers.

In the interest of full disclosure, all four candidates are members of GMIA. Helix Water District Director Kathleen Hedberg is a member of the GMIA Board of Directors, and recused herself for our vote on the following endorsement which was a unanimous decision.

Based on their voting records, candidate statements, GMIA meeting with the candidates, and performance during their last term:

- ◆ GMIA endorses incumbent Kathleen Hedberg, who is being challenged by Maria Mariscal. Division 4
- ◆ GMIA endorses Steven Rotsart, who is challenging De Ana Verbeke for her seat. Division 2

GMIA urges not only your support for the two endorsed candidates, but a “spread the word” among your neighbors and friends—we can make a difference. 🌱



When in Drought Save every day, every way

GMIA reminds our members to follow the mandatory conservation steps listed below. We encourage you to be a good neighbor; if you see a neighbor who is not conserving, please gently remind them to do their part to reduce water consumption.

- ◆ Limit residential landscape irrigation to three days per week (chosen by customer).
- ◆ Limit lawn watering and landscape irrigation using fixed-spray sprinklers to no more than 10 minutes per watering station per day. Adjust irrigation run time to avoid runoff. This provision does not apply to water efficient devices, including weather-based controllers, drip/micro-irrigation systems, stream rotor sprinklers and rotating nozzles.
- ◆ Turn off ornamental fountains and other water features unless they recirculate water.
- ◆ When hand-watering landscaped areas, use a bucket, hand-held hose with positive shut-off nozzle, or low-volume non-spray irrigation. Limit hand-watering to three days per week (chosen by customer).
- ◆ Repair all leaks within 72 hours.

Past editions of this newsletter are available online at www.gmia.net. Helpful articles for water-wise homeowners are archived for your reference. Here is an index of articles that may be of interest:

- Winter 2013 Rebates Available for Turf Replacement
- Fall 2012 Smart Controllers Help Conserve Water
- Summer 2012..... Efficient Irrigation Sprinklers
- Winter 2012..... Subsurface (Drip) Irrigation
- Fall 2011 The Scoop on Digging a Residential Well
- Summer 2011..... Preventing Pool Water Evaporation
- Winter 2011..... Drought Tolerant Plants
- Fall 2010..... Mulch from Miramar Landfill



Bob Cederdahl



Bob Cederdahl



Bob Cederdahl



Bob Cederdahl

Bob Cederdahl

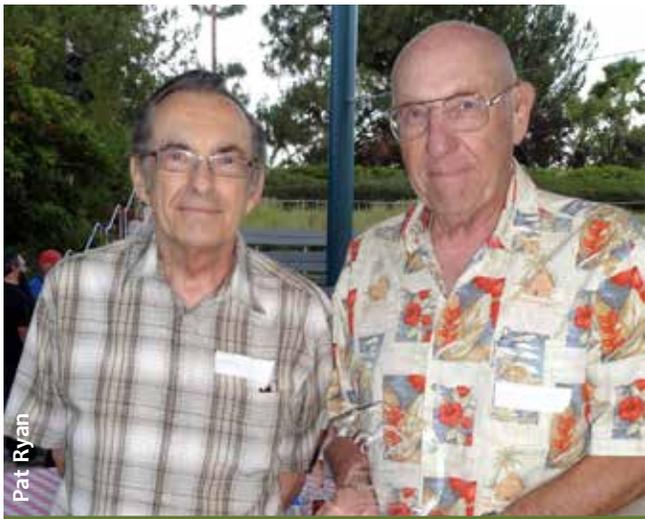
2014 Annual Dinner



Pat Ryan



Pat Ryan



Pat Ryan



Pat Ryan

What's Up with All These Crows?



by Pat Ryan

The proliferation of the American Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*, throughout San Diego County has been striking. Longtime residents in our area recall a time when crows were uncommon visitors. What can account for the rapid rise in the number of crows, especially since the 1980's? Why have they expanded from their traditional habitat of oak and riparian woodlands near grasslands, to our orchards, palms, pines and eucalyptus groves?

Many experts, including The Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology agree: crows have discovered that urban areas, especially the suburbs, are great places to live! Here are some of the reasons:

- ◆ The 1972 extension of the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 regulated the hunting of crows. In addition, many local ordinances passed by cities and counties eliminated shooting them.
- ◆ The Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) is one of their chief nocturnal predators, so

moving into areas where artificial light restricts the threat of owl predation is also an advantage.

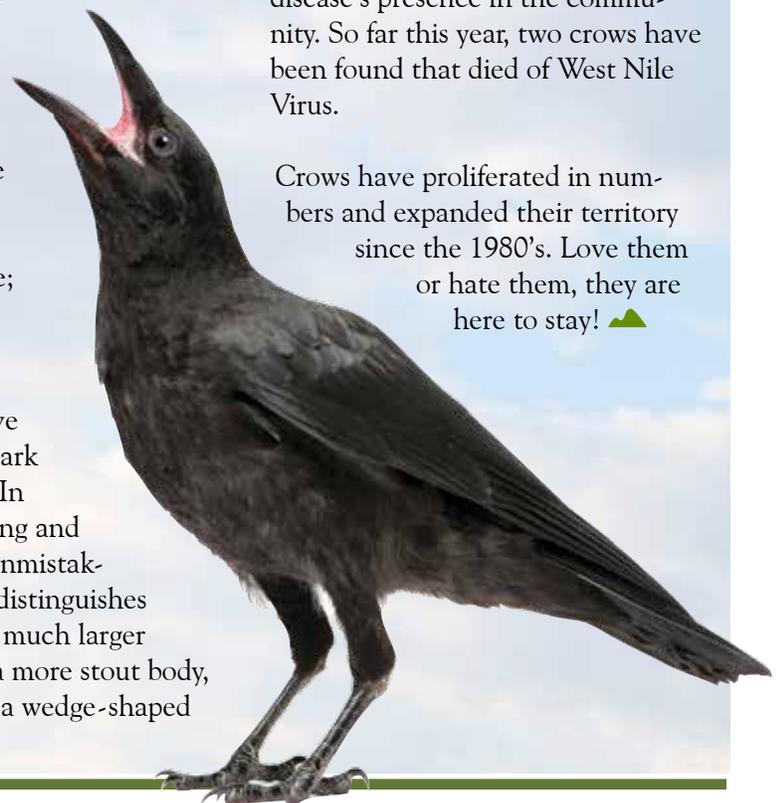
- ◆ Our neighborhoods offer plenty to eat: lawns with worms and insects, trash, food waste in open compost bins, pet food, garden produce, and songbirds and their eggs and nestlings.
- ◆ Many large groves of eucalyptus, pines and palms in our area provide excellent habitat for crows to gather and roost in at night.
- ◆ Human habitat has expanded into their territory.

A very intelligent and social species, crows in our backyards are extended families that share food and look out for each other. In San Diego County they are non-migratory, but in winter gather into larger flocks to roost. They lay eggs mid-March to mid-May with only one successful brood a year. It takes nearly four months to raise the young (usually 4) to independence. Young that survive the first year have a good chance of living several more; some crows live to be 17-21 years old and tend to mate for life. Adults have a relatively long, dark bill and dark legs. In flight, the tail is long and fan-shaped. The unmistakable "caw" sound distinguishes the crow from the much larger raven, which has a more stout body, heavier beak, and a wedge-shaped tail.

If crows have become a nuisance, the Humane Society suggests that "humane harassment" can move them. Use pyrotechnics (loud noisemakers that sound like fireworks) or a boat horn, which are most effective at dusk. Reduced outdoor lighting, recorded crow distress calls, and effigies (fake Halloween models) of dead crows hanging upside down with their wings spread are surprisingly effective. To protect your garden, hang Mylar tape or bird tape in streamers. CD's or pie tins with reflective surfaces that spin or flap in the breeze will also help.

The biggest threat to crows is West Nile Virus, which has hit crows on the East Coast especially hard. For that reason the County records crow, raven and jay deaths. According to Chris Conlan, supervising vector ecologist with the County, crows serve as an early sign of the disease's presence in the community. So far this year, two crows have been found that died of West Nile Virus.

Crows have proliferated in numbers and expanded their territory since the 1980's. Love them or hate them, they are here to stay! ▲





Too Many Trash Trucks

by Mark Schuppert

There are three primary providers of residential curbside trash and recycling services available in the Grossmont-Mt. Helix area. Edco is a local family operated business out of Lemon Grove; Waste Management is headquartered in Texas; Republic Services, formerly known as Allied Services, is based in Arizona.

Our members have expressed concern about safety, noise, and road wear-and-tear. Three different services (trash, recycling, green), by three different providers seem to be an excess on our narrow, winding streets. You have asked us to seek help from the County and we have had discussion with Supervisor Jacob. We learned that disposal service within the County is a private enterprise and cannot be regulated.

There are some streets with overlapping services but most streets are not served by multiple haulers. You may not have an option of providers. Our best advice for residents who do have overlapping service is for neighbors to work together to agree on one provider which would minimize the truck traffic on those streets.

Below is a matrix of services and rates by provider.

Free drop off of household hazardous waste is available by appointment for all GMIA residences. For City of La Mesa residents, appointments can be made with Edco to drop off paints, pesticides, oil, and other common waste products at their facility located at Center Street. Residents who live in the unincorporated County can make an appointment with Waste Management for free drop off of hazardous waste at their facilities located at 1001 West Bradley in Santee.

	Edco	Waste Management	(Formerly Allied) Republic Services
Phone	(619) 287-7555	(760) 439-2824	(858) 278-6061
Two Month Rate	\$61	\$55	*\$62+/-
Wheeled Trash Can Provided	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wheeled Recycling Can Provided	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wheeled Yard Can Provided	Optional @ \$5.50 Included Above	Yes	Yes
Use of Own Cans Allowed	"Green" Recycling Only	All Accepted	"Green" Recycling Only
Maximum Size of Owned Can	32 gallons	40 gallons	40 gallons (w/handles)
Max No. of Owned Cans	15 ("Green" Only)	12 in each category	7 ("Green" Only)
Bulk Item Pick Up	Free	\$40 for fist item	Free
	Once per quarter	\$14 additional Item	Once per month
Company Headquarters	Lemon Grove	Texas	Kearny Mesa
* Rates for Republic Services require a two year contract. Bi-monthly rate witout contract is \$94			

Trees of Mt. Helix

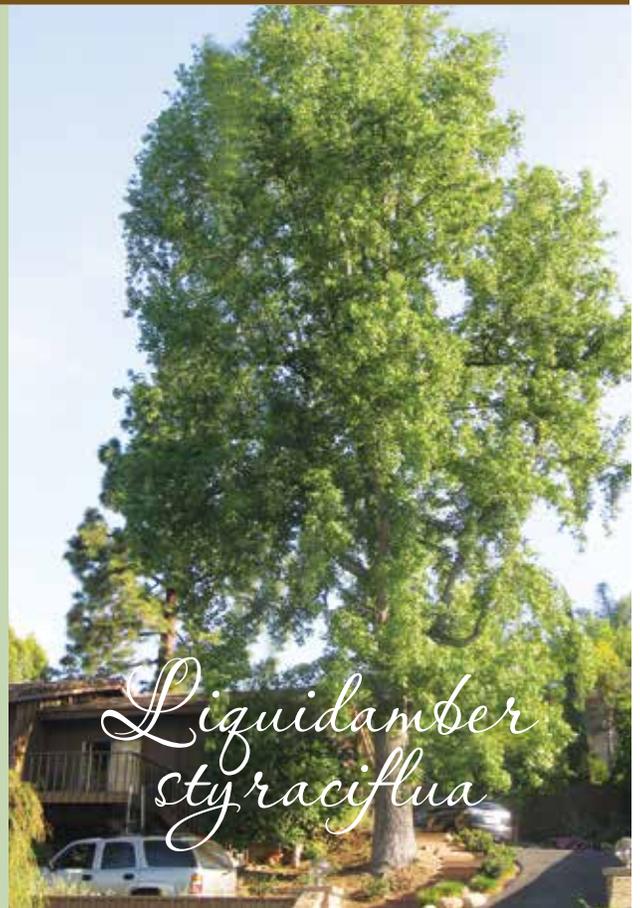
Liquidambar styraciflua American Sweet Gum Tree

by Jeffrey Rule

The Liquidambar or American Sweet Gum tree featured is located in the front yard of GMIA members Lynn and Linda Graham who have lived in the Dutton Drive neighborhood for 48 years. Planted between 1963 to 1965, the tree is noteworthy for its overwhelming size, how it reduces the scale of the two story house, and its fall leaf colors of purple/yellow/red.

A large deciduous tree, the Liquidambar and can grow to plus 60' tall by 25' wide with a moderate growth rate and regular watering. If purchasing a Liquidambar tree, plant it away from paving and use a root barrier, since it is notorious for lifting driveways with its surface roots; hanging seed pods also can become a litter problem in lawn and paved areas.

Members are encouraged to share their special tree through these articles. Please call Jeffrey Rule (Director) at (619) 466-0362 to schedule a site visit. ▲



Opportunities

by Mike Valley

Do you walk, ride or drive in our beautiful areas of Mt. Helix and Rancho San Diego? If the answer is yes to any or all of the above, we all have opportunities to make wonderful improvements as we admire the scenery and go about our daily lives.

If we pick up litter, trim an overhanging branch or even pull a weed or two, we are cleaning up OUR roads, walkways and banks for the benefit of all. The roadsides and banks are a part of all our properties wherever we go and the better they look, the more we can take pride and comfort in enjoying nature and the lovely homes of our areas.

If everyone or even some help these efforts, it is a superb way of "passing it on." This is also a great "good-neighbor" effort as examples to our children and grandchildren. All you need is a 36-inch pick-up-and-reach tool, about \$4.00 at Harbor Freight, and a few small plastic bags to dispose of the litter you glean from the area.

See you in our opportunities! ▲

Heartfelt Thanks

Thank you to the following donors whose gifts of \$25 in excess of their annual dues support our efforts. Gifts received from June through August:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ralph & Kathie Allen | Lee & Jo Ann Knutson |
| Dean & Judith Allen | Charles & Beverly Little |
| Chris & Michele Billand | Molly & Rey Nocon |
| Thomas & Donna Bloomer | Bill & Maxine Oden |
| Jim & Geri Bollman | Paul & Janel Pehau |
| Gail & Lorri Bordeaux | Peter & Judith Prichard |
| Lou & Peggy Botte | Jay & Kathleen Rains |
| Ronald & Mary Brady | Jim & Brenda Richmond |
| Samuel Ciccati | Arlene Riley |
| Charles & Gloria Eller | Robert & Sandra Schussler |
| Richard & Nancy Fassett | Josephine Swikard |
| Dieter & Susan Fischer | Florrie Taylor |
| John Grasberger & Eva Goode | Fletcher & Marcy Thornton |
| Guy & Laura Halgren | Paul Wells |
| Jerome Heard | Guy & Signa Wilcox |
| Charles & Amelia Jenke | Bob & Holly Yarris |
| Jeff & JoAnn Knox | Myra Zimmerman |

DMV Sales Tax Alert for Grossmont-Mt. Helix Residents

You may have been overcharged by the DMV on major purchases and didn't realize it. GMIA member Bob Perry wants you to know that residents who live in our unincorporated areas but have La Mesa or El Cajon zip codes are at risk of overpaying sales tax on DMV purchases such as cars, boats, motorcycles and planes. This applies only to DMV purchases. Bob bought a new car and was overcharged hundreds of dollars because it appeared he lived in the city of El Cajon due to his 92020 zip code. Those who live in the unincorporated areas of San Diego County should rightfully pay the 8% sales tax rate on DMV purchases no matter where they buy them in California. Sales tax in El Cajon is 9%; the city of La Mesa is 8.75%.

Officials with the California Board of Equalization, which collects sales tax, tell us those who have overpaid should first talk to the retailer. If they don't get their money back, then file a request for refund within six months with the

California Board of Equalization at www.boe.ca.gov/formspubs/pub117/. You can also contact the California Board of Equalization at (800) 400-7115. GMIA encourages you to be aware of this discrepancy. Thank you to Bob Perry, GMIA member, for letting us know about this potentially costly tax issue. ▲

Last year we featured this article and many members contacted us to say "thanks." They discovered they had been overcharged for sales tax on cars, motorhomes, boats and motorcycles.

Chicken Ranch Developer Cited for Pollution

Better to ask forgiveness than permission? That appears to be the thinking of the developer for Fuerte Ranch Estates, site of the former Hooper Chicken Ranch on Fuerte Drive.

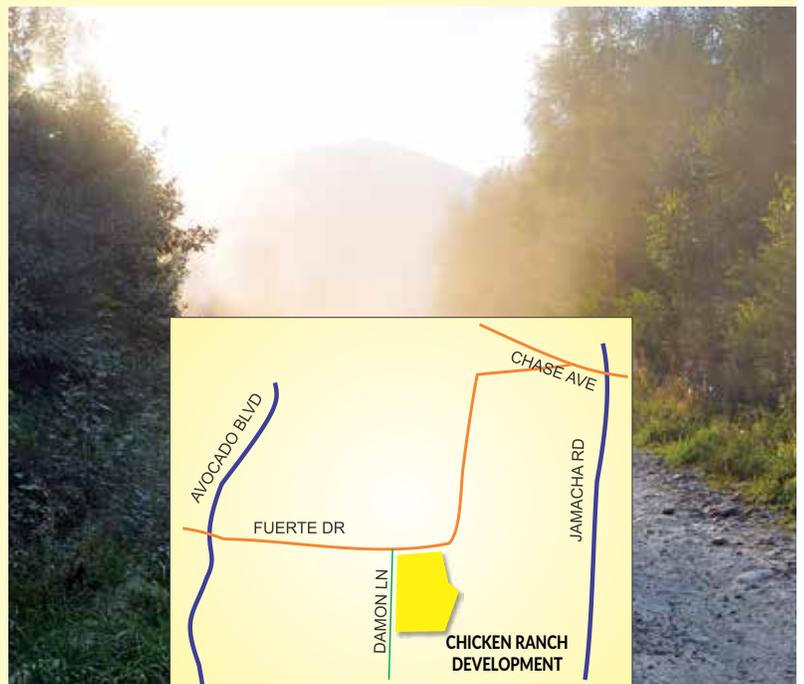
GMIA has learned that demolition and debris removal took place at the Chicken Ranch without a Demolition Permit and without an inspection to determine if lead based paints or asbestos were present. Dust inundated that area and alarmed residents noted that water trucks were not used to reduce airborne debris.

Our understanding is that Adam Wilson, policy aide to Supervisor Jacob, alerted the Air Pollution Control Department who cited the developer. However, whatever fines might be levied cannot erase the damage done to our residents, including young children and the elderly, whose respiratory systems may have been compromised by this upheaval of decades old materials.

GMIA has asked our County Supervisor to ensure the Department of Planning and Land Use Services scrutinizes all aspects of this project to closely monitor compliance. Our community was placed at risk for hazardous materials exposure and subsequent health consequences due to this

seemingly careless action. This a sorry beginning for a building project that is surrounded by established homes, a public park, and an elementary school.

Thank you to GMIA members Art & Lynn Patoff who contacted the County about this problem. We appreciate their continuing vigilance to safeguard our residents. ▲



GMIA Survey of Priorities

Please complete and return to: GMIA, P.O. Box 2751, La Mesa, CA 91943.

1 Please rank the importance of GMIA's efforts in these areas:

1 = not important 2 = somewhat important 3 = important 4 = very important

<input type="checkbox"/>	Land use	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public safety & crime prevention
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water rates	<input type="checkbox"/>	Beautification & improvement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Zoning & code enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sponsoring community events
<input type="checkbox"/>	Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Advocacy for political candidates
Other:			

2 In the last 3 years, which of the following GMIA activities were you interested in:

<input type="checkbox"/> Community Forum	<input type="checkbox"/> Walk Up Mt. Helix to Welcome the New Year
<input type="checkbox"/> Art & Garden Tour	<input type="checkbox"/> Growing Orchids, Backyard Chickens or other class
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Dinner Meeting	<input type="checkbox"/> Ice Cream Social
<input type="checkbox"/> Succulent Swap	<input type="checkbox"/> Nature Walk

Comments:

3 Would you pay higher dues to receive our newsletter by postal mail in full color?

(currently printed in black & white and available online in color) Yes No No Opinion

Comments:

4 Have you ever visited our website at www.gmia.net? Yes No

Comments:

5 How many years have you lived in our area?

Less than 5 5-10 11-20 21-30 More than 30

Comments:

6 Do you have any suggestions to improve GMIA's efforts on behalf of its members?

Name
(optional)

Contact info
(optional)



P. O. Box 2751
La Mesa CA 91943-2751

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
San Diego, CA
Permit No. 17

To ensure your membership is current: please look at your mailing label on this newsletter. On it you will find the renewal date of your membership. Note: if the date is June 2015 or later, your dues are paid in full. Thank you! Annual membership is just \$18 (2 years - \$36; 3 years -\$54). You may renew online at our secure website www.gmia.net or mail your payment to GMIA, P.O. Box 2751, La Mesa, CA 91943-2751.

Multi-Year Membership a Hit!

Thanks to our many members who renewed their support with a multi-year membership. Thanks so much! When you renew for 2 (\$36) or 3 years (\$54), you help us simplify our data entry and bookkeeping. Since we are all volunteers, we really appreciate being able to devote more time to actively helping our community and less time doing “busy” work. Plus, members have told us they like simplifying their payment schedule as well.

Please note: GMIA doesn’t send renewal notices. We rely on you, our members, to check your mailing label for the renewal date for your dues. We don’t have the resources or manpower to mail every member a renewal letter – that would cost a lot of time and money. We’d rather spend our resources on bettering our community, and hope you agree. Thank you for your support.

Share Before Recycling

Please share this newsletter with a neighbor before you recycle it.

Go Green

If you would like to “go green” and receive this newsletter by email (instead of postal mail) let us know at yourgmianeighbor@gmail.com. We are pleased to offer our online newsletter in full color!

Calendar

Sat., Jan. 3rd Walk Up Mt. Helix for the New Year	Sun., May 3rd Art & Garden Tour
--	--