

**A Community
Newsletter**

from the

**Grossmont –
Mt. Helix
Improvement
Association**



viewpoints

September 2001

Volume 32, Issue 4



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Status of the 94/125 Interchange (All's Well, Relatively Speaking)

As we travel the secondary streets in our GMIA community neighborhoods, most of us wonder if the added 94/125 interchange improvements will ease some of the congestion, and wonder if the improvements will indeed ever be constructed! We realized a great measure of success earlier this year in getting the final interchange ramp project (125 Southbound to 94 Eastbound) defined, approved and funded.

However, many of us anticipated the final outcome of the recent State Budget negotiations with some fear that the 94/125 interchange work might suffer to some (or total) degree in the budget machinations heavily biased by the energy crunch. Current investigation by your GMIA 94/125 Interchange Committee with CALTRANS indicates that the unfinished 94/125 interchange work is still funded and scheduled.

Here is a quick summary of the results of our investigation:



The State Budget negotiations did not result in any specific impact on the SR94/SR125 Connector Projects.

As of now, the following projects are still proceeding in consonance with the plans defined as of last May:

1. Design, acquire right-of-ways, and construct the **Permanent Connector SR125 Southbound to SR94 Eastbound.**

This Project is adequately funded and has a current forecast completion date of early CY2007.

2. Complete the **Temporary Connector 94 Westbound to 125 Northbound.** This Project is fully funded and is almost finished with a current forecast operational use date of June 2002.

The good news is that the projects are proceeding. The bad news is that it will be 2007 before the final missing connector is constructed, and thus we have to live with traffic congestion for a longer period than we desire.

If you would like more details on this traffic situation, please read the supplementary article titled, "More Details on the 94/125 Interchange Improvements," on page 6 of this newsletter. —

GROSSMONT - MT. HELIX



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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.

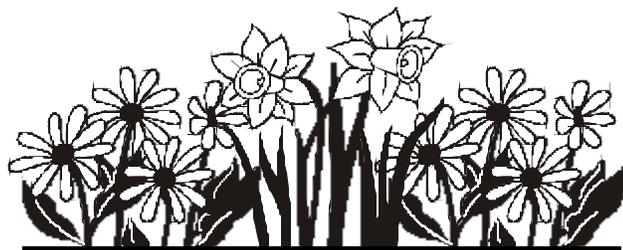
This newsletter reflects the efforts of your entire Board of Directors.

Editor:	Alvin W. Platt
Design & Layout:	Victoria Vinton, Coyote Press Graphic Communications
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Photography:	Bob Cederdahl

A Letter from the President

By the time you receive this newsletter, our country and community will still be getting back to normal after the horrific tragedy on September 11. The outrageous and sadistic terrorist attack affected the lives of everyone in our GMIA community. Some families experienced the loss of or injury to family members or friends, while all of us experienced the deepest sense of loss and sadness for such an uncalled for act against our great country! By now we are all pulling together to heal our nation and ensure the continued greatness of the United States of America. We urge all GMIA members to keep the faith and display a renewed and vigorous support for our nation. You will read in one of the short articles in this edition of our newsletter about one of the numerous services held in our community in observance of this national tragedy. The memory of those innocent and brave souls who lost their lives should continue to remain in our thoughts and prayers, and remind us that there is often a price to pay for the freedom and blessings we experience as citizens of the greatest country in the world!

With that thought in your mind, I encourage you to read this entire newsletter as a means of understanding some of the conditions and issues in our GMIA community and the various topics on your GMIA Board's agenda. ■



It's Time to Select Gardens for the Spring 2002 Art & Garden Tour

It may seem early to some of you, but expectations of good results from future events most often are dependent on good planning that starts well in advance of the event. In line with this philosophy we are now in the process of building a list of candidate gardens and artists for the next GMIA ART & GARDEN TOUR, to be conducted in the Spring of 2002. If you would like to nominate your garden, or recommend the garden of someone

you know, as a candidate for the Spring 2002 Tour, please provide the information to our Chairperson for that event, Guy Halgren, at the address below. Guy would also appreciate information on potential East County artists suitable for this event. ■

Contact Information:
Guy Halgren
Box 2751
La Mesa, CA 91943

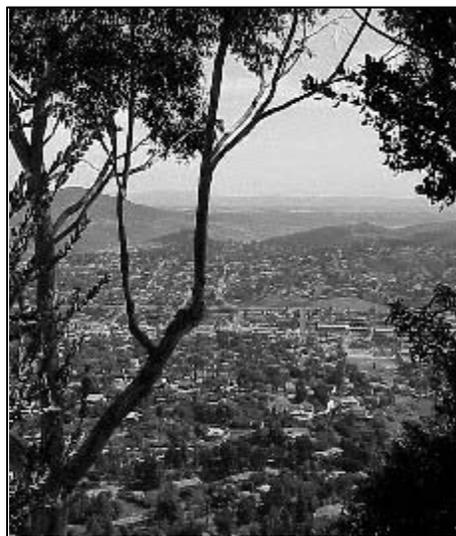
Keeping Our Community Safe & Beautiful

From time to time your GMIA Board receives communications from individual members regarding perceived conditions in their neighborhood that distract from a safe and beautiful community. Please be assured that your Board is vitally concerned with the appearance and condition of our entire GMIA community. However, we want to remind all members that concern and action to ensure that we keep our community safe and beautiful is a collective responsibility. Each of us must contribute to the maintenance of our community by reporting conditions requiring action to the appropriate agencies or entities, as well as doing the necessary follow-up to ensure satisfactory action. Therefore, we want to stress that it is the responsibility of individual members to make the first contact to local agencies or entities regarding concerns about roads, trash, zoning (code enforcement) and suspected criminal activities in your neighborhoods. To assist members in making the appropriate contacts for their concerns, we are providing the following information to help you.

If you have concerns about the conditions of your roads, we would like to remind you of the contact telephone numbers for the County of San Diego and/or the City of La Mesa. If you have concerns about potholes, schedules for road re-surfacing or other road related concerns, you need to contact the County Department of Public Works at 1-877-684-8000 (toll free "pothole patrol") or go to the County of San Diego website at www.co.san-diego.ca.us where you can make a road service request online by going to the



“
Remember that we are in charge of our own destinies when it comes to keeping our Grossmont-Mt. Helix community beautiful!
 ”



Department of Public Works section of the site. The phone number for those of you in the City of La Mesa is 619-667-1450. They also have a downloadable road service request form at www.cityoflamesa.com

For concerns regarding illegal land use, including but not limited to illegal signage, illegally parked vehicles and other zoning violations, you need to contact Code Enforcement. For those residents living in the County of San Diego, the phone number is

619-441-4264. For those living in the City of La Mesa, the phone number is 619-667-1177.

Concerns regarding possible criminal activity should be addressed to the appropriate law enforcement agency. In the County of San Diego, please call the Sheriff Department (Lemon Grove Substation) at 619-337-2000; for the City of La Mesa, please call the La Mesa Police Department at 619-667-1400. If there is an emergency, remember to dial 911.

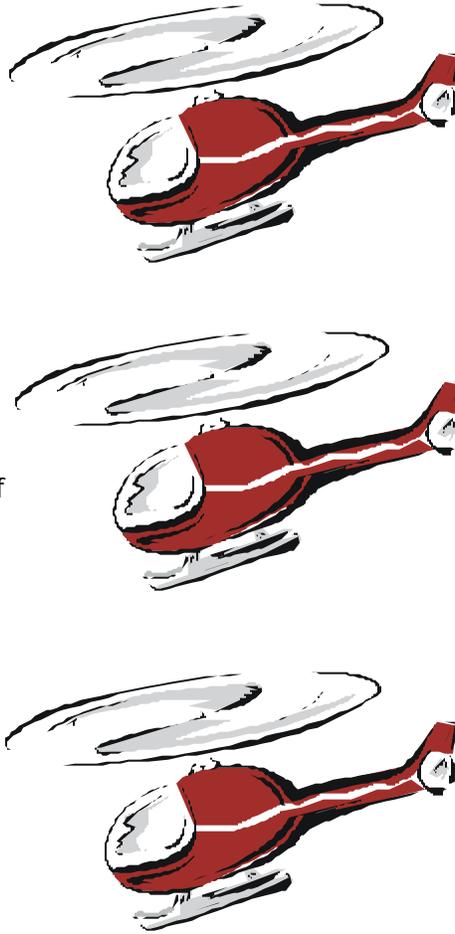
Remember, it is helpful to put your complaints and concerns in writing to the appropriate agencies, with a copy to the GMIA Board if you wish to bring it to our attention. In the event that you do not receive adequate resolution of your problem through the above agencies, please let your GMIA Board know and we may be able to further assist you.

One final thought: remember that we are in charge of our own destinies when it comes to keeping our Grossmont-Mt. Helix community beautiful! Please take time to keep the areas in front of your driveways clean of trash. If you walk, jog or bike, take a little extra time to pick up any trash you see along the roads. You can make a difference and we all will benefit. If you notice that trash is being left around your trash can and on the street after your trash truck comes, contact your trash service provider. Keep in mind that now that the trash trucks are automated, it is more difficult for the trash truck drivers to contain the waste. However, serious disregard when dumping the trash cans should be reported to the trash service provider. ■

What Residents Said About Aircraft Noise

At the February 2001 GMIA Board meeting, several Mt. Helix area residents requested assistance with addressing a perceived increase in aircraft noise from both fixed wing and rotary wing (helicopter) aircraft. The Board agreed to place an article in the next issue (June 2001) of Viewpoints requesting information from the GMIA membership relative to perceptions by others that aircraft noise in the community has increased noticeably.

Eighteen households responded to the request for information. Sixteen of the respondents indicated they perceived an increase in aircraft noise and activity, while two indicated they had not. The respondents who perceived an increase in aircraft noise provided various amounts of anecdotal information concerning their perceptions. Most seemed to attribute the increase to small fixed wing as well as rotary wing aircraft. Another strong perception was that aircraft are flying too low over Mt. Helix.

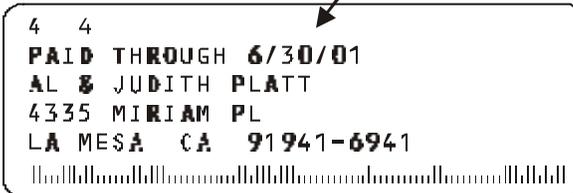


Although the number of respondents to our request for input on this perceived condition was small compared to our total membership, and concentrated primarily in the vicinity of Mt. Helix, the GMIA Board adopted an initial action to address this perceived problem.

GMIA is sending letters to all airports with air traffic most likely impacting our GMIA community. These letters, to be sent to Lindbergh Field, Montgomery Field, Gillespie Field, and Brown Field, ask the airport managers to promulgate a strong request to all airlines, air clubs, flight instruction schools and pilots requesting strict compliance with all flight regulations, particularly in the Mt. Helix area. It is hoped that this will encourage pilots to observe the existing minimum altitude requirements in our community, and help reduce aircraft noise from low-flying aircraft. The Aircraft Noise Committee will continue to follow this situation and recommend further action as required. ■

Membership Renewals Are Due (Have You Sent In Yours?)

Most members are aware that the Annual Membership year for GMIA starts on July 1 and ends on June 30 the following calendar year. To make the membership renewal process easy for the membership year that started on July 1, 2001, we sent each member a reminder notice along with a combination renewal form/return envelope. So far we have received membership renewals from the majority of our members, but are still missing renewal responses from a significant number of you. *Look at your address label on this newsletter, and you will see the date*



through which your membership is paid. If you have not yet sent in your membership renewal, please take a moment to locate the renewal package previously sent to you, complete the renewal form, enclose your \$15

check, and mail it to us. If for some reason you can not locate the renewal package we sent to you, it is okay to just put your name and address on a piece of paper and mail that to us with your \$15 check for the dues: GMIA, P. O. Box 2751, La Mesa, CA 91943. Your Board of Directors thanks you for your membership renewal! ■

Mt. Helix Park Candlelight Service and Upcoming Events



The Mt. Helix Park Foundation, in their capacity as the new Trustee of Mt. Helix Park, reports they are still working hard to make this historic facility an even brighter shining jewel in our GMIA Community. It is reported that some initial donations have been very welcome to help in continued operation of the Park.

However, the Foundation, a non-profit corporation, advises that they are preparing to launch a major fund raising campaign to raise funds sufficient to meet the required needs for immediate repairs as well as upgrades to the Park, along with a capital amount necessary for future operations of the Park. Please anticipate their announcements regarding the pending fund raising effort.

In parallel, please be aware of periodic announcements regarding various community events being held in the Park. As a result of the overwhelming shock and sadness felt by our GMIA Community from the September 11 terrorist attack on the United States, the Foundation organized and sponsored a spontaneous Candlelight Prayer Service on Sunday evening, September 17. This memorable and moving service was held in the Mt. Helix Park Amphitheater with attendance estimated in excess of 1,200.

The next community event at Mt. Helix Park scheduled by the Foundation is the Annual Christmas Caroling on the Mountain, to be held this year on Thursday evening, December 20. All GMIA members and friends are encouraged to mark their calendars now and plan to attend this holiday special event. It should be especially meaningful to all of us this year as we continue to support our great nation and remember those who lost their lives in the recent national tragedy. Please plan to join us for this community event. •



More Details on the 94/125 Interchange Improvements

A brief refresher on how the total 94/125 Interchange situation had evolved as of our report at the Annual Dinner Meeting last May will perhaps assist in a better understanding of where we are today. As of about a year ago, two permanent connectors had been constructed to connect State Routes 94 and 125:



CONSTRUCTED

**94 Eastbound Connector to 125 Northbound
125 Southbound Connector to 94 Westbound**

At that time there was no local Transportation Plan or funds allocated by SANDAG or the State for the other two required missing permanent connectors:

MISSING

**94 Westbound Connector to 125 Northbound
125 Southbound Connector to 94 Eastbound**

(If this gets confusing and you are interested in understanding the details of this crucial infrastructure situation, you might try sketching it out on a piece of paper.)

About two years ago, as a purely stopgap measure, SANDAG had allocated \$6.2 million from regular California Transportation Funds to build a **Temporary 94 Westbound Connector to 125 Northbound**. Most of you have observed the final construction phase of that temporary connector for over a year now. It is almost finished with the only action remaining being completion of the bridging over Panorama Drive. This Connector is expected to be open for operational use by June 2002.

Then about a year ago, The Governor-initiated new "**Transportation Congestion Relief Program**" (TCRP) was approved and funded. The TCRP was initially funded in the amount of \$8.4 billion, with the funds to be used for critical projects not previously funded or yet designated as official California Transportation Projects. Completion of the two missing 94/125 Permanent Connectors was formally designated as a Project to be partially funded using \$60 million from the TCRP Funds.

The Regional CALTRANS office had already done some preliminary planning and design of the two missing 94/125 Permanent Connectors. As of this last

Spring, the Total Project had been defined with an estimated cost of \$90 - 105 million (compared to the \$60 million designated to fund this project from the TCRP funds). The project also included ultimate required widening of SR125 between SR94 and I8. As was announced in our last newsletter (and at the Annual Dinner Meeting last May) a GMIA Committee

worked with the Regional CALTRANS office and successfully brokered a restructure of the Permanent Missing 94/125 Connector Project. As a result, the following revised plan was implemented by CALTRANS:

I. Design and Construct the **Permanent 125 Southbound Connector to 94 Eastbound** as a new separate, stand-alone project at an estimated cost of \$45 million using funds from the \$60 million TCRP allocation. Operational use is scheduled for early 2007.

II. Finish the **94 Westbound Temporary Connector to 125 Northbound** using the SANDAG \$6.2 million funding. Completion is scheduled June 2002. This Temporary Connector will remain in operation until sufficient funds are allocated to build the Permanent Connector.

III. Address the ultimate required **Widening of SR125** between SR94 and I8 as a separate project using residual funds from the \$60M TCRP allocation plus additional funds when available. The TCRP previously approved \$8.4 billion fund was not diminished in total value during the recent State Budget approval process. However, time availability of the funds was extended in that \$2 billion slated for use in FY2002 was deferred for use until FY2008. However, the \$60M previously allocated for the Permanent 94/125 Connector Project remains available! Thus, as it stands now, the following CALTRANS projects are in progress:

Permanent Connector SR125 Southbound to SR94 Eastbound.

This project to design, acquire right-of-ways, and construct the Permanent Connector is adequately funded and has a current forecast operational use date of early CY2007.

Temporary Connector 94 Westbound to 125 Northbound.

This project is fully funded and is almost finished, with a current forecast operational use date of June 2002. ■

Thanks for Your Support!

During each GMIA annual dues renewal period it is common to receive a special donation from members in addition to their regular dues payment. This year is no exception. Your Board is very appreciative of the generosity shown by various members. These additional funds enhance the Board's ability to better communicate with and serve our membership. Below is a list of those members who provided an additional donation with the payment of their dues as of the writing of this newsletter. We apologize for any errors or omissions. ■

John & Marilyn Adams
 Harry & Jean Albers
 Ralph Allen & Kathie
 Donald J. Asbury
 Charles & Bernice Aulgur
 Gordon Austin
 Daralyne Baddour
 William Barricks
 Mr. & Mrs. E. R. Bass
 Candy Romine-Belasco
 Lois J. Beland
 Jack & Rosemary Bently
 Mary Berry
 Ken & Gloria Bowhall
 Garrett G. Bradt, Jr.
 Edward & Gloria Burdick
 Sidney B. Chapman
 Gerald & Alice Collier
 Gene & Jane Compere
 Raymond & Edith Coiner
 Ted & Pam Crooks
 Mr. & Mrs. Leo Culp
 Bill & Ruth Devin
 John & Doris Eastman
 Dieter, Susan & Doyle Fischer

John & Teresa Fistere
 Stephen & Lara Folwell
 The Garns
 Jim & Debbie Gianulis
 Stephen & Sara Gillespie
 Dr. & Mrs. Edwin Grubbs
 R. D. Hamann
 Havilan
 Dr. & Mrs. Jerome Heard
 Alice Henderson
 Betty Hill
 Harrison & Jackie Hollywood
 M. J. Holmes
 Henry T. James
 Pear & Pat Karlsgodt
 Dean & Maren Krenz
 Ted & Mary Larson
 William & Mary Lefebvre
 Jim & Deana Legler
 Dr. Paul C. Liederman
 Mr. & Mrs. Roger W. Lloyd
 Pauline Major
 Emy & Marcello Mastrocola
 Mr. & Mrs. Ralph G. Miller
 Louise & Nick Nicoloff

Judy & Brian Pike
 Mr. & Mrs. Hillyer Prentice
 John & Linda Quinn
 Annette Lau & Richard Rachel
 Sabino S. Rella
 Jim & Brenda Richmond
 Richard & Arlene Riley
 John & Yvonne Rosenberger
 Jolene Roth
 Harold & Patti Schioldager
 Roger & Beatrice Sennott
 Dan & Dolores Smolan
 Alan N. Stewart
 Roberta Tidmore
 Jeff & Lisa Uniacke
 Eugene & Mary Vacher
 Frank & Deana Verbeke
 Paul B. Wells
 Wilbur Werner
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 Roger & Wanda Wolfe
 Robert & Barbara Young
 David & Jocelyn Zimmerman
 David & Myra Zimmerman





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Calendar of Future Events	
December 20	Caroling on Mt. Helix
April (TBD)	2002 Art & Garden Tour
May 13	2002 GMIA Annual Dinner Meeting