

**A Community
Newsletter**

from the
**Grossmont –
Mt. Helix
Improvement
Association**



viewpoints

June 2003

Volume 34, Issue 1



In This Issue:

**The Annual GMIA
Dinner...**

See page 4

**The Latest on the
"Chicken Ranch"...**

See page 5

**Happenings In &
Around Our
Community...**

See page 5

Thank You, Donors!

See page 6

**First GMIA-
Sponsored
Community Forum!**

See page 7



2003 GMIA Annual Art & Garden Tour

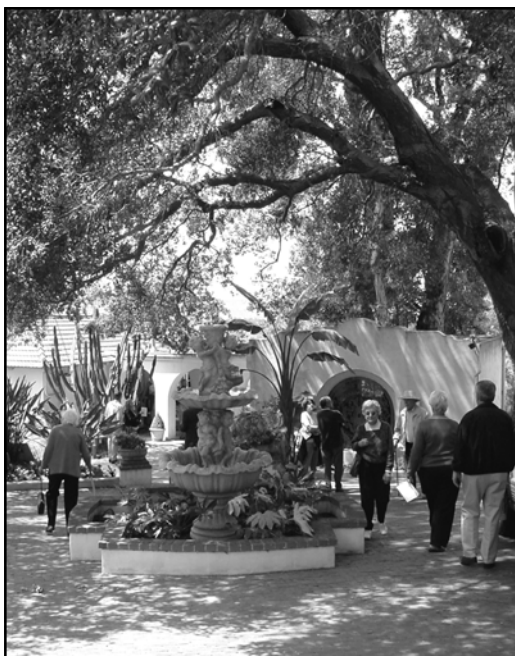
A lovely day, a lovely tour!



If you did not join us for the GMIA 2003 Annual Art & Garden Tour conducted on May 4, you really missed a wonderful and very enjoyable event. The gardens were beautiful, the art was impressive, the weather was gorgeous, and the garden hosts, artists, and the almost 600 touring attendees were most congenial and outgoing throughout the entire afternoon.

While there once was a thriving grape growing industry in the El Cajon Valley, that day is long gone. However, one of the side benefits for everyone on this recent GMIA garden tour was the treat of seeing a beautiful and working vineyard at the home of Marty and Teresa Bastuba on Mt. Helix Drive. Many attendees

Continued on page 3



GROSSMONT - MT. HELIX



IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Officers

Alvin W. Platt 660-0232	President
Jon Fulghum 440-1048	1st V.P.
Tom LeDuc 697-8884	2nd V.P.
Clinton Smith 698-0839	Treasurer
Jan Bement 670-4279	Secretary
Ellen Phillips 670-0986	Asst. Secretary

Directors

Kristine Alessio	Rosemary Heweker
Brian Arnold	Kristin Kjaero
Connie Clark	Jack Phillips
Guy Halgren	Mike Valley
Allison Henderson	

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

Printing: LetterKraft Printing
Lemon Grove

Photography: Bob Cederdahl

A Letter from the President



Well, summer is upon us and by the time you receive this issue of our newsletter, another GMIA Fiscal Year will have ended on June 30! Since the GMIA Fiscal Year has ended you will also be receiving your annual notice for membership renewal. We hope that all members will take the time to respond to the renewal invitation and get this administrative chore out of the way (to avoid this task every year, why not sign up for two years at a time – that option is often exercised by members).

In many ways it has been a good Fiscal Year for GMIA. We have seen an increase in the interest in our association and the number of active

members. We have also actively lobbied for, and hopefully will achieve, a status quo as far as the building density for the remaining vacant parcels in our GMIA community as reflected in the County's General Plan update (GP2020 Update). We have also generated a renewed interest in the improvement in the general appearance of the Casa de Oro area, and support the Casa de Oro Business Association in their efforts to achieve this objective. A new, revitalized committee is off and running to accomplish the improvement and beautification of the current barren parcel north of Santa Sophia Church, which is actually the County's Estrella Park.

On the other hand, there are several issues and concerns for our community. Not the least is the proposed development of the Hooper "chicken ranch" parcel over by Fuerte School (see separate article in this issue). As previously noted, crime in our community is becoming more of a concern. And commuter traffic on our community roads is becoming almost unbearable! Installation of the two missing permanent 94/125 connectors is vital to solving this traffic problem. Your GMIA Board is actively working on all of these issues on behalf of our membership and the entire GMIA community. In order to keep our members informed on all the vital issues and developments, you will read in one of the main articles of this issue that the first ever "GMIA Community Forum" will be conducted this coming October. Please read that article, and I urge you to ensure you will be able to attend this forum by filling out and sending in the pre-registration form provided.

Finally, as the GMIA Fiscal Year comes to an end, so will my tenure as your President. While I have certainly enjoyed serving as your President, there are some other projects that I must pursue while I am still able, and to that end I chose not to be considered for re-election. I will still remain on the GMIA Board of Directors and be active on several committees. However, on July 1 **Kristine Alessio** will take over as President of GMIA. Kristine, a native of San Diego County and already very active in community affairs, is a very capable person and will serve you well as your President. Please give her your support as she guides GMIA in the future. ■

Continued from page 1

also had the opportunity to sample the “fruits of the vine” produced from this vineyard.

GMIA thanks the garden hosts and artists who generously shared their homes and talents, making this annual event one of our best ever. It was indeed, a very enjoyable and rewarding afternoon for all of us who participated.

If you don't want to miss out on this event next year, make a note in your future action calendar now for early May, 2004, date to be announced, for the next GMIA Annual Art & Garden Tour. ■

For the benefit of those who missed this event, gardens on the tour this year were at the homes of the following residents:

Hosts:

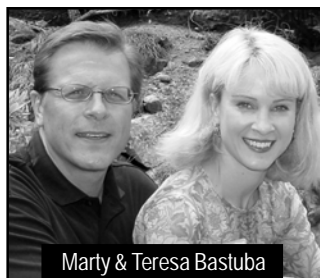
Ron & Mary James
Marty & Teresa Bastuba
Guy & Laurie Hलगren
Rick & Cheri Sparhawk
Stephen & Sara Gillespie
Paul Huyser

Artists:

Stephen & Sara Gillespie	Terry Whyte
Mary Laurino	Pat Harari
Laurie Luschei	Jennifer Meeder
Laura Buckingham	Dixie Sampier
Rick Havern	Terry Harvey
Sharon Kay Thomas	Luanna Schwartz



Ron & Mary James



Marty & Teresa Bastuba



Guy Hलगren



Rick Sparhawk



Stephen & Sara Gillespie



Annual Dinner Meeting

A Rousing & Enjoyable Success!

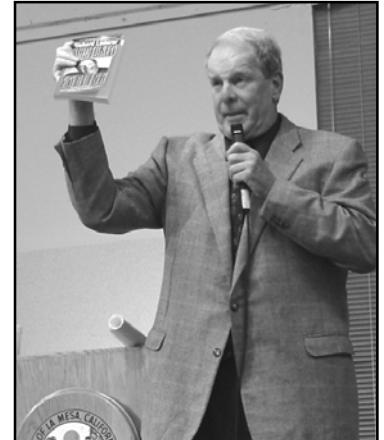
The GMIA Annual Dinner Meeting this last May 12 was a very enjoyable evening! In addition to having the chance to dine and converse with some of your other community members, the health and status of our GMIA association was presented in detail. Since our theme was "classic cars" the opportunity was afforded for a close look at some truly classic vehicles owned by some of our members. Additionally, we received a very interesting and informative status of the County report from Supervisor Dianne Jacob (below left).

The icing on this very fine evening cake was provided by our guest speaker, Richard Lederer (below right), noted speaker and authority on the English language. Richard held most everyone in awe with his revelations of some of the strange and unique aspects of our native tongue (and one of the two current universal languages in the world).

While what he provided was most authoritative and informative, it was delivered in one of the most interesting, enjoyable, and most often humorous

delivery modes one could experience on a subject like that. To say the least, his presentation was one of the most enjoyable we have experienced at this annual event in recent years.

We have already started the wheels in motion to plan a super dinner event for next year, so mark your calendars now! Our next GMIA Annual Dinner Meeting will be held on **Monday May 10, 2004**. Please plan to join us for this next annual event. ■



Helpful Telephone Numbers	County of San Diego	City of La Mesa	City of El Cajon
ROADS Resurfacing, closures, potholes, etc.	Department of Public Works 1-877-684-8000 or www.co.san-diego.ca.us Dept. of Public Works section online road service request	619-667-1450	619-441-1658
LAND USE Zoning violations and other illegal land use	Code Enforcement 619-441-4264	Code Enforcement 619-667-1177	Code Enforcement 619-441-1716
LAW ENFORCEMENT	911 if Emergency or Sheriff Dept. (Lemon Grove) 619-337-2000	911 if Emergency or La Mesa Police Department 619-667-1400	911 if Emergency or El Cajon Police 619-579-3311
ANIMAL SITUATIONS Animal Control	619-236-2341	619-667-1436	619-441-1580
HAZARDOUS MATERIAL DISPOSAL	877-713-2784 for guidance & information 619-596-5100 to make an appt. for disposal	619-287-5696 to make an appt. for disposal	619-596-5100 to make an appt. for disposal
GENERAL INFORMATION For categories not listed above	858-694-3900	619-436-6611	619-441-1776

Higher Density Requested for Development of “Chicken Ranch”

The first step in the proposed development of the 26+ acre parcel near Fuerte School, known as the “chicken ranch,” has been formally initiated. In the County’s General Plan (and thus far in the draft GP2020 Update to that plan) the density for developing this vacant parcel has been designated as one dwelling unit per 2 – 4 acres. The developer interested in eventually

building houses on this parcel, Reynolds Development Company, has formally requested that the County increase the density 300% to 2 dwelling units per acre and allow 1/3 acre lots. Such an increase over the currently planned density is considered by GMIA as out of character with the surrounding community and thus unwarranted. At this point, GMIA, the VDO Planning Group, and an ad hoc

community action group known as C3 (Community Character Coalition) have vigorously opposed this request for an increase in the dwelling unit density for this parcel. All GMIA members and their neighbors are encouraged to support the opposition of this proposal for increased dwelling density in our community. ■

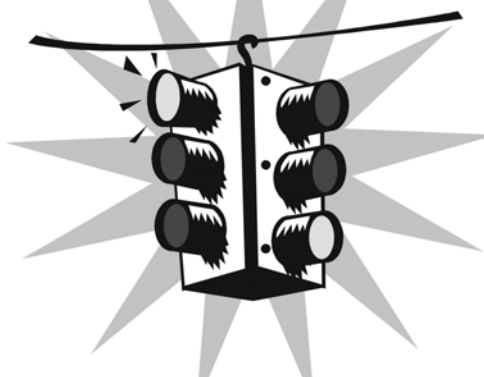
Happenings...In and Around Our Community

94/125 Missing Connector Ramps

The bad news is, the State budget crunch has eliminated all of the previously designated funding to accomplish completion of these critically needed traffic infrastructure components. The only positive news is that GMIA is spearheading a new high level committee organized to find a way to get the funding reinstated and maintain progress on this vital project. A complete up-to-date status will be given on this project at the GMIA Community Forum scheduled for October 18 this fall (see other article in this issue for more details on this forum).

Problem House at 10270 Fuerte Drive

Finally good news on this issue: as documented in the Union Tribune on June 25, all the plaintiffs (heirs and attorneys) fighting the County’s Eviction Notice settled the case and have agreed to vacate the premises by August 1. Let’s keep our fingers crossed and hope that nothing else comes up to delay the County’s ability to sell this house to a new owner as part of the Probate settlement.



Stop Lights/Stop Signs

The All Way Stop sign at the intersection of Grandview and Resmar Road has been approved and will be installed. That should resolve most of the traffic issues at that intersection.

County General Plan Update (GP2020 Update)

As we go to press, there is nothing of a final nature to report on this issue. The County Board of Supervisors has completed all of the public input on the County Staff proposed version of this vital update to the County’s General Plan. However, final approval of the update has not yet been rendered by the Board. A status report on this critical issue for our GMIA community will be made at the GMIA Community Forum planned for October 18.

Estrella Park

As previously reported, a new committee has been formed consisting of community members and representative from groups and entities who are interested in improving and beautifying the barren-looking vacant land just north of Santa Sophia Church—the County’s Estrella Park. The Mission Statement of the newly formed Estrella Park Beautification and Improvement Committee is:

The Mission of the Estrella Park Beautification and Improvement Project is to revitalize, improve, and beautify the existing park space known as Estrella Park, so that its appearance fits with the overall quality of the Grossmont/Mount Helix area and it is usable and enjoyable by all residents in the vicinity.

We’ll keep you posted on developments regarding this project. If you would like to lend your positive help or support on this project, please contact Joan Tweed at phone number 660-9926. ■

Thanks to Donors

Members often make donations to support the operations and functions of GMIA, in addition to paying their annual dues. Your GMIA Board appreciates these financial gestures and periodically recognizes donors in this newsletter. Below are the names of the most recent donors since publication of the previous list of donors. ■

Caroline Braun
 Teresa & John Fistere
 James & Deborah Gianulis
 Wilma Kramer
 Suzanne & Kenneth Penyak
 Mike & Mary Qualls
 Mr. & Mrs. David Zimmerman, Jr.
 Bill & Adele Davis
 Jodi Friedman
 Betty & Jerry Hill
 Jacob & Marian Oswald
 Dale & Pat Potter
 Candy Romine-Belasco



Pt. Loma, Coronado and downtown San Diego from Mt. Helix.

Calendar of Events

2003	
Sunday, December 14, 7 – 8:30 p.m. Annual "Caroling on Mt. Helix" Mt. Helix Park	Sponsor: Mt. Helix Park Foundation No Shuttle. Park by the fire station and walk up by candlelight starting at 6:45 p.m.
2004	
Sunday, April 11, 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service Mt. Helix Park	Shuttle starts at 5:30 a.m. Pastries and beverages served starting 5:45 a.m. Sponsoring church to be announced
Date to be Announced, Noon to 4 p.m. GMIA Annual Art & Garden Tour	A detailed announcement will be mailed to all GMIA members Sponsor: GMIA
Monday, May 10, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. GMIA Annual Dinner Meeting La Mesa Community Center	Sponsor: GMIA Dinner is served at 6:00 p.m. Reservation form will be mailed to all GMIA members
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR THESE IMPORTANT EVENTS!	

First GMIA-Sponsored Community Forum!

In an attempt to better serve our members, your GMIA Board of Directors is sponsoring the first GMIA Community Forum. This concept was proposed to attendees at the recent GMIA Annual Dinner Meeting on May 12 by means of a survey questionnaire. The survey response overwhelming supported the sponsorship of such a forum.

This forum will be designed to afford the opportunity for GMIA community members to be briefed on, and ask questions about, current topics and issues relevant to our GMIA community. The forum will be conducted:

**Saturday October 18, 2003
1:00 pm — 3:15 pm
Fuerte Elementary School**

Preliminary topics and issues identified for presentation and discussion include the following:

- Planning and land use issues facing our community.
- Forecast impact of the GP 2020 Update.
- Impact of elimination of I63 Land Use Policy.
- Status and plans for the missing 94/125 connector ramps.

- Other transportation plans and projects affecting the GMIA community.
- SANDAG's functions and how their decisions affect our GMIA community.
- Key facts about current rate of crime in our community.
- Recommendations to control and alleviate crime in our community.
- Role and functions of the VDO Planning Group.

The format of this forum has been planned to allow representatives of several government entities and agencies to provide insight and information regarding selected topics and issues that are of current interest and concern for our GMIA community. Several key officials are already committed to participate in this important community event by serving on the GMIA Community Forum Panel. They include:

Supervisor Dianne Jacob
SD County Board of Supervisors

Pedro Delgado
CALTRANS Regional Director

Gary Gallegos
Executive Director, SANDAG

Lt. Tony Salazar
SD County Sheriff's Department

Jack Phillips
Chairman, VDO Planning Group

The format for this forum will allow the panel members to briefly present facts and information regarding pre-assigned topics and issues. This will be followed by panel response to written questions.

Attendance at the forum will be limited by the room capacity – 275 attendees. Therefore, GMIA members wanting to ensure their ability to attend this forum should complete, detach, and mail the pre-registration form printed at the end of this article. Those members submitting this pre-registration form will be given priority for attendance should responses to the subsequent formal invitation to this forum exceed the room attendance limits.

A specific announcement and invitation to this forum will be mailed to all GMIA members in mid-September. There will be a nominal \$5 registration fee per person to partially offset the cost of conducting this forum. ■

You may pre-register using the form below, and you will receive a notice when fees are due. If you wish to finalize your registration at this time, simply enclose a check for \$5 for each attendee, and your registration will be complete.

Detach here

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

2003 GMIA Community Forum, Saturday October 18, 2003, 1:00 – 3:15 p.m.

The following GMIA members desire to attend the 2003 GMIA Community Forum (Please – one form per family):

Name (print) _____

Total Attendees: _____

Name (print) _____

Telephone: _____

Name (print) _____

REGISTRATION FEE ENCLOSED:

Please detach this form and mail to:
GMIA, P.O. Box 2751, La Mesa, CA 91943

Total Attendees _____ **x \$5 =** _____



PRSRT STD
US Postage Paid
PERMIT NO. 956
SAN DIEGO, CA

viewpoints

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

About GMIA ... And What We Do

The Grossmont- Mt. Helix Improvement Association (GMIA) is the oldest and largest association of its type in San Diego County, if not the entire State of California. It was formed in 1938 as a result of community concern for the lack of adequate land use planning and zoning type requirements.

It is a non-profit public benefit corporation that represents thousands of families residing in single family residences in the large unincorporated area of the County that is east of the city of La Mesa, south of the city of El Cajon and generally north of SR94. The GMIA membership area consists of over 5,000 single-family owner occupied residences with a population approximating 20,000 people.

The primary mission of GMIA is to work on behalf of all GMIA community members to ensure that the quality and character of our community is preserved and enhanced.



Unlike a typical "homeowners association," GMIA does not own any property or facilities, nor is it responsible for any property maintenance. GMIA is served by an elected, unpaid Board of Directors and has no paid officers or employees. The GMIA Board works with County and regional governmental entities to help resolve issues that impact our community such as transportation systems, traffic control, planning and land use, zoning, code enforcement, as well as crime prevention and law enforcement.

GMIA invites and encourages all residents in our membership area to become active members and to support the efforts of the GMIA Board to preserve and enhance the character and lifestyle that are currently enjoyed in our wonderful community. ■