

A Community Newsletter

from the
Grossmont –
Mt. Helix
Improvement
Association



viewpoints

September 2000

Volume 32, Issue 1



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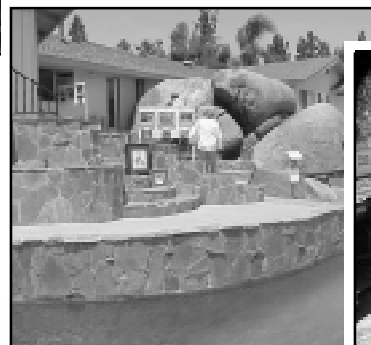


Art & Garden Tour Sets New Records

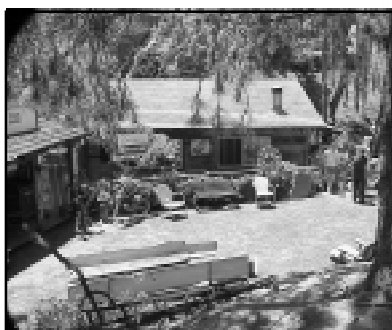
GMIA's Millennium Art & Garden Tour, held on May 7, 2000, was unique in several ways. For the first time, the Tour was a retrospective look at gardens featured in either 1994 or 1995. Visitors had the opportunity to see how the plantings have matured, and how the owners have further enhanced their settings.

Thank you to the gardeners who opened their homes to the 541 enthusiasts attending the event (a new attendance record!).

- ✿ Greg and Debby Hamann
- ✿ Kirk and Jan Mitchell
- ✿ Michael and Linda Rice
- ✿ Ed and Pam Tobias



Some scenes from the gorgeous gardens featured in the 2000 Art & Garden Tour



This year's Tour also featured *nine* artists who shared their works with us! GMIA expresses its thanks to the artists:

- ✿ Bonnie Andrews
- ✿ Betty Puchaty
- ✿ Laura Buckingham
- ✿ Janet Stoval
- ✿ Diane Dancer
- ✿ Jack Straub
- ✿ Anne Ewins
- ✿ Alta Whitlock
- ✿ East County Recorder Ensemble

And of course, thanks to all the people who attended this year, and helped make this the best Tour yet. ▲

GROSSMONT - MT. HELIX



IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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A Message from the President

As the recently elected President of the Grossmont-Mt. Helix Improvement Association, I welcome the opportunity to serve our association and the entire GMIA community! As you will note on this page, we have a full slate of officers to help accomplish our GMIA objectives. Your Board of Directors is staffed with a talented and dedicated select group of community members. I look forward to continued work on our Board for the benefit of our entire community.

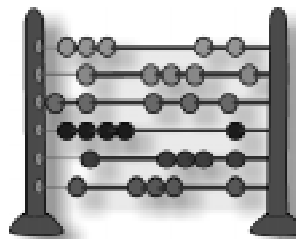
As you will note in reading the various articles in this issue of Viewpoints, GMIA continues to work on issues and activities to ensure the quality of life and environment of our GMIA neighborhood. Most noteworthy is the final and more timely solution to the 125/94 direct connector ramp problem. Once scheduled for a distant completion date, construction of the critical missing ramps now has been moved up to a more realistic and acceptable completion date! Also, please note developments regarding Mt. Helix Park, and the fund raising project planned by the Mt. Helix Park Foundation to ensure maintenance and operation of this historic and beautiful landmark. Please review the brief article on GMIA finances and revenue, and perhaps set a personal goal for the coming year to recruit one or more new members for our organization from some of your non-member neighbors and friends. Remember we now have a GMIA website that includes membership application forms and instructions. And finally, please pencil on your calendar the date for our next annual dinner, May 14, 2001, and plan to join us for that annual meeting and dinner.

I look forward to meeting more of our members and serving the association during my tenure as your president. ▲

A Word on GMIA Finances

As you may be aware, GMIA is a non-profit corporation. Association revenue consists primarily of dues and donations from members. Expenses of the Association are predominately for printing and mailing newsletters, special candidate endorsements, dues notices, surveys, and other communication with our members and the community. There are no paid Directors, officers or employees of GMIA. All revenue received by GMIA is used for operation of the Association.

The Board of Directors is careful to use all revenue efficiently. However, even with the recent increase of an-



nual dues to \$12 (the first increase in nearly ten years) your Board still struggles to cover expenses while staying within budget. Thus, contributions from members are always

welcome, as are dues from first time members recruited through your efforts to expand our membership. (Please see our "Thank You" article on page 4.)

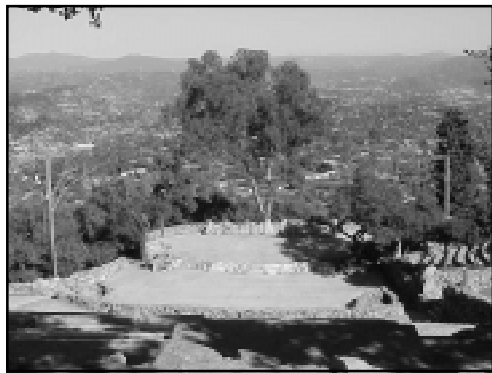
To answer a question we hear frequently, the IRS does not deem our association a charitable organization, and thus your dues and donations are not generally deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. ▲

Fundraising for Mt. Helix Park

As we have posted for you in recent issues of this newsletter, the Mt. Helix Park Foundation ("Founda-tion"), the non profit corporation established to take over the position of trustee from San Diego County for the Mt. Helix Park Trust (the Yawkey Trust), is up and running! The Foundation Board of Directors is busily accepting and attempting to resolve all of the newly levied responsibilities and issues inherent in their trustee position. As reported in our last newsletter, the Foundation has already established a new set of rules for use of the Park, particularly regarding parking and traffic for major summer musical events. They are also operating and maintaining the Park under severe fund limitations.

The only funds currently available for repair, maintenance and operation of the Park is the original trust fund established by the Yawkey family in 1929. However, current forecast requirements for funds to maintain and operate this historic jewel of a landmark in our GMIA area are far in excess of that currently available to the Foundation.

Therefore, the Foundation has recently planned and initiated a major fund



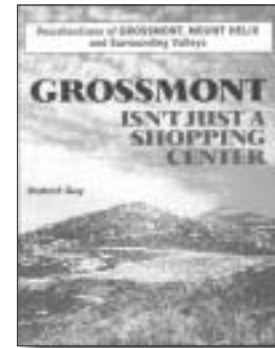
raising project. You will be hearing more about this fund raising campaign through various communication sources (community organizations, churches, friends and neighbors, and the Foundation). We encourage you to support this major fund raising project for the benefit of one of the most beautiful and significant landmarks in San Diego County!

Their current project is planned to generate sufficient funds to cover all requirements for improving and enhancing the current status of the Park as well as providing an endowment fund sufficient to ensure continued maintenance and operation of the Park. Prospective donors will also be offered opportunity for permanent recognition of contributions designated for major Park improvements and enhancements.

So, please anticipate an invitation to be a part of the fund raising project of the Mt. Helix Park Foundation.

The Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax exempt corporation, and thus all donations to the Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by current tax law. ▲

History Book in Third Printing



From time to time we have shared with you in this newsletter extracts from a book that documents some very interesting history of our Grossmont-Mt. Helix area.

The book, *Grossmont Isn't Just A Shopping Center*, is a wealth of local history, photographs and interesting illustrations from as far back as the 1800s. It was written, printed, and sold by its author, Hubert Guy. The number of volumes from his 1st and 2nd printing were all sold, and the book became unavailable.

Mr. Guy is now deceased, but his wife has just finished a 3rd printing of 250 copies and is again offering the book for sale. You can obtain a copy by calling her at (619) 466-7385. ▲



Find out more about the Helix Farms Spring Valley Plantation olives in *Grossmont Isn't Just A Shopping Center*.

Visit the GMIA Website

GMIA now has a website! We have been up and running on the “net” for the past several weeks. If you haven’t checked us out please do so. Our website can be reached at:

www.gmia.net

We plan to further expand and enhance the site, but right now it contains all the information about GMIA that you would normally find in our brochure. This is an excellent



tool for members to use in recruiting their friends and neighbors as prospective GMIA members. There is even an application and necessary instructions for joining GMIA incorporated in the website.

We have also included provision for reading the most recent issues of these newsletters (right now we only have the April 2000 issue on the site, but we will soon have this issue and possibly previous ones). Please check out your GMIA website! ▲

Thanks for Your Donations to GMIA!

The board would like to extend sincere appreciation to the following GMIA members who not only have paid their annual dues, but have also made a noteworthy additional financial contribution to support the operations of GMIA (please forgive any omissions and/or errors):

James D. Guysiz
Frank Verbeke
Teresa & John Fistere
Dr. & Mrs. Jerome Heard
Patricia Yuengling
Fred & Lora Lindblom
Ron & Kristi Bement
Mrs. Tajmahal Dirbas
Mr. & Mrs. Roberto Cueva
Stanley S. Rogers
James C Duffy
Harold Schioldager
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney B. Chapman
Roland L. Saulnier
Emy & Marcello Mastrocola
John & Maggie Mazur
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Mark & Connie Allan
Chuck & Debbie Orley
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Mr. & Mrs. Eugene D. Vacher
S.W. & L.L. Folwell
Darold W. Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Leo “V” Culp
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Girvin III
Terry & Hisako Koike

Update on Highway 125/94 Interchange Construction



We had a somewhat dismal forecast in our last *Viewpoints* regarding the 125/94 interchange project. SANDAG had refused to fund the project in the next budget and it looked like the ramps wouldn't even be started until 2010 and not finished until 2015!

Since then, Governor Gray Davis has intervened (with

urging from State Senator Steve Peace and Supervisor Dianne Jacob) with money for the ramps project. \$72,600,000 has been earmarked for rights-of-way and construction that include the missing direct connector ramps between SR94 and SR125.

Caltrans now has the project scheduled for construction possibly in the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

This is good news for GMIA residents as it will redirect through traffic from our local streets (Avocado, Fuerte, Bancroft) back to the freeway system where it belongs. Our lobbying efforts have finally paid off! ▲

Planning & Land Use—Senior Housing & Library Groundbreakings

No word yet on when the senior housing facility in Rancho San Diego (on Via Rancho San Diego across from the fire station) will break ground. The company that proposed the facility is Senior Resource Group, 4660 La Jolla Village Dr., phone (858) 552-6776.

The new library in Rancho San Diego (next to the fire station) is in the final stages of approval and funding. It won't be long now before the groundbreaking. ▲

Thank You, Ox Bow!

Your GMIA Board of Directors gives a special note of thanks to Bob Muller, the new owner of the Ox Bow Restaurant located in Casa de Oro. The GMIA Board meets at least once a month to conduct business on behalf of our members and a meeting place large enough for our entire Board plus occasional visitors is often difficult to find. We appreciate that during July and August Bob was kind enough to allow our Board to meet in one of his banquet rooms at the Ox Bow.

As the new owner of the Ox Bow, Bob has plans to expand and remodel the current restaurant, as well as enhance and modify the previous menu (he has already introduced a new specialty of "Memphis Style" BBQ food items).

Bob was a previous resident of the Mt. Helix area prior to his recent return to San Diego and acquisition of the Ox Bow. If you visit his restaurant, please welcome him back and echo thanks from the GMIA Board. ▲

Neighborhood Traffic



Perhaps you have noticed that much of the increased traffic on Fuerte Drive is passing through our area from points east such as Rancho San Diego and even Jamul. While we can't stop the cars from coming, we can drive the speed limit to make the traffic a bit safer. From all the Highway Patrol statistics, excessive speed is the cause of most of the collisions on Fuerte.

The speed limit on Fuerte is 35 MPH and radar enforced (on occasion). Let's try to make it a

habit to leave a little earlier so that the 35 MPH limit can be maintained. If those of us that live here can't keep to the speed limit, it's difficult to expect out-of-area traffic to obey the laws.

The folks that live on Fuerte will thank you for obeying the speed limit and our community's main east-west artery will be much safer. ▲



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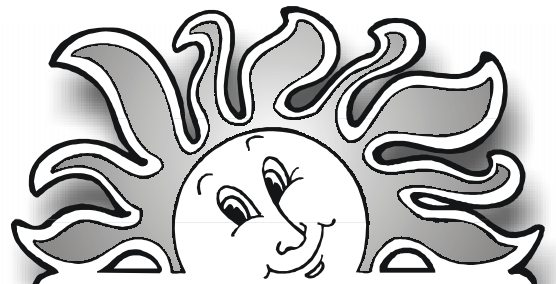


The GMIA Board has been advised that thefts from the mail boxes at local residences have been occurring. To assess the magnitude of this problem, GMIA requests advisement

from members who are aware of specific instances of such thefts.

Advisements should be addressed to the attention of GMIA Director Brian Arnold, and mailed to the GMIA mailing address shown above. Information can also be provided via email to brjmail@home.com.

While GMIA is not an enforcement agency, we wish to document the extent of any mail theft problem so that this information can be forwarded to the proper authorities. ▲



*Have a great summer
and fall, enjoy our
beautiful area & weather,
and watch for the next
Viewpoints coming in
December, 2000*