

OCTOBER, 2003

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RIVIERA ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING

Sunday Afternoon, October 19th, 2003 5 p.m.
Marymount School Auditorium
2130 Mission Ridge Road

WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE AS OUR GUESTS:
Candidates for City Council

Friends and neighbors are welcome. Refreshments served after the program.

A Letter from the President:

Dear Neighbor:

In our continuing effort to preserve our residential quality of life, we have invited the candidates for city council to speak and answer questions at our October 19th meeting. I hope to see many of you there, as this is an opportunity to ask questions of the

candidates and inform them of your concerns. Feel free to contact me or any of the board of directors with questions or subjects you would like discussed.

Come and see who is running for city council, meet your neighbors, and enjoy some refreshments.

**Sincerely,
Dianne Channing**

UPDATE ON CURRENT RIVIERA ISSUES

Franceschi Park and House

On May 16, 2003 the Master Plan Application for park and house was found to be complete and was accepted by the Planning Department for the preparation of the Initial Study Document. The document, completed 09-05-2003, allows for a 30 day public comment period. Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission will also comment on this document; this meeting has been scheduled for 09-18-03. Additional meetings to discuss the Master Plan Document are scheduled for October 9, 16 and 23. These are public meetings; residents interested in attending should call Mr. Jeff Cope, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director at 564-5437 for further information.

On August 20, 2003 Historic Site Report (Park property) and Historic Structures Report (Franceschi-Freeman House) were submitted to the Historic Landmarks Commission for review and comments. Depending on the findings of the Initial Study review and the public comments, a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Master Plan will be prepared and submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission. This commission will have to make the necessary findings to accept the document prior to final approval at City Council.

Now it looks like all of this will happen before the end of 2003! The project started in 1998 and has cost the city, so far, close to one quarter of a million dollars, not including the considerable staff time or the second contribution of \$ 150,000 to the Pearl Chase Society. Although much money, staff time and volunteer hours have been expended on this project, there is yet no visible change to the neglected park property!

P.S. The surveyor marks you may have noticed on Franceschi Road, Mission Ridge Road and Las Tunas Road are for aerial survey of the park property by the firm preparing the park's future landscape design.

Sheffield Reservoir

As of late August, the open Sheffield Reservoir has been taken out of operation. Sheffield water customers are now served from the two temporary tanks just below the old concrete reservoir. The professionals at the Cater Water Treatment Plant

have stated that this is much better quality water since it no longer requires the additional heavy chlorination.

View Ordinance

The View Dispute Resolution Ordinance was passed in January, 2002 with the provision that it return to council for review in eighteen months. The subsequent review occurred on August 5th and the ordinance received positive review from the council and the public. If you have any questions about the ordinance call Dianne Channing at 963-2127.

Riviera Business Park

The bright lighting at the Riviera business park is currently undergoing mitigation and further review to reduce the problems of “light trespass, nightglow, glare and excessive lumen levels” to the neighborhood.

Riviera Association Website

The Riviera Association has designed a web site to inform members of current issues, history, and to provide links to city services. We plan to have the web site operational by the end of September.

Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance

The city staff recommended updating the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance by hiring RRM Design Group. The city council voted to revise the NPO but did not approve the contract. This means that the process to update the NPO will take longer than it would have if the consultant had been hired. Council members Hart and Secord were opposed to updating the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance.

Fire Safety—Riviera Red Flags

Don't Panic; Be Prepared

If you are driving around the Riviera and see red flags at important intersections, you need to ask yourself a question, "Am I prepared for a fire?" These flags mean a General Red Flag Alert has been called by the County Fire Chiefs, the result of hot, dry weather and windy conditions that make the county more vulnerable to wildfires. This is the first season during which the flags will be used on the Riviera. When the flags are

flying, residents should begin monitoring local radio and TV stations to be aware of any developing emergencies or changing conditions. (Another important source for tracking weather patterns that may exacerbate fire conditions can be found on-line at www.weather.com).

Weather conditions surrounding wildfires are unpredictable. Red Flag Alerts are one way we can help to alert, educate and prepare residents to take personal responsibility for themselves and their homes. It's important to remember that there just aren't enough emergency service personnel immediately available once an incident occurs. If you want more information about fire safety or red flag alerts in your neighborhood, contact your local fire department.

Marianne Gordin

Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council & Pre-Fire Mitigation Task Force

Fire Safety—Improved Wildfire Response

The City of Santa Barbara recently approved a temporary building at fire station #7, which is located at Mission Ridge and Stanwood. This temporary building will be used to house forest service personnel. Having a team whose specialty is wildfire will expand the capabilities of the fire department in serving the needs of the area. Plans are underway to remodel station #7 in the near future to permanently house the additional staff, and once this happens, the temporary building will be removed.

Friendly reminder: Check to make sure you've paid your membership dues. If you haven't, please send them in. Dues are \$20.00 per year. Our address is P.O. Box 41838, Santa Barbara, CA 93140-1838.