

October, 2004

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RIVIERA ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING

Sunday Afternoon, October 17, 2004 5 p.m.
Marymount School Auditorium
2130 Mission Ridge Road

WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE AS OUR GUEST SPEAKERS:

Susan Chamberlain, landscape historian, will present a talk on: "Dr. Franceschi and the Evolution of Franceschi Park." The second speaker will be a representative from the Santa Barbara Vector Control District who will answer questions about West Nile Virus.

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

A Letter from the President:

Dear Neighbors:

Next year the Riviera Association will celebrate its 75th Anniversary. We are beginning to plan some celebrations, and would love to hear from any of you that were present at the 50th Anniversary party held at El Encanto on October 19, 1980. On the last page of this newsletter is an attached questionnaire for you to return so that we can determine the level of interest in proposed events. You can also use our website for information and to communicate your preferences. We look forward to hearing from you!

Lastly, my term as your president will end January 2005, due to term limits. I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve the Riviera Neighborhood and help preserve our residential quality of life.

Sincerely,
Dianne Channing

UPDATE ON CURRENT RIVIERA ISSUES

Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance

The Steering Committee has resumed its meetings to revise the NPO after a short hiatus to enable the city staff to catch up on the issue papers. Two meetings were held in the evening to accommodate public input from those who could not attend the afternoon meetings. The topic was floor-to-area ratio, which is being considered as a tool for limiting house size. Most meetings are scheduled to take place at the David Gebhard Room at 630 Garden Street on Fridays from 1:30 to 4:30 PM. Any questions, call 963-2127 or use the NPO link on our website.

Franceschi Park and House

The permanent Franceschi Park Advisory Committee, appointed in March 2004, has met three times. At the next meeting, scheduled for September 29, the members will continue to discuss implementation of the master plan. A major issue, related to all aspects of park rehabilitation, is the lack of available city funding. At an April 30 meeting with city officials, Riviera Association representatives were told that no city funds would be available for implementation of the master plan or for additional park maintenance. All needed funds must be raised by the committee through grants, gifts, and partnerships with donors, organizations, and volunteers.

Given this daunting committee task, the association is asking interested members to participate in rehabilitating Franceschi Park. In the association survey, conducted in

2000, many members were in favor of upgrading the park, some were also in favor of rehabilitation of the house. If you expressed support for this project, now is the time to help! Please contact Brigitte Forssell, Riviera Association representative on the committee, if you have questions on how you can contribute. A copy of the completed Master Plan is also available for review.

Franceschi Park Workday

In past years, the Riviera Association, along with other volunteer groups, has participated in general clean up and maintenance at Franceschi Park. Due to city budget constraints, the park continues to need our help. The next community workday at the park is scheduled for November 13, 2004. Those interested in participating in this rewarding community effort should plan to attend. You may want to check our website or the City Parks & Rec calendar before showing up to make sure this date hasn't changed.

Fire Safety—Wild Land Fires

Riviera residents and association members are well aware of the danger of wild land fires. City officials are especially concerned and declared fire season much earlier than in previous years. Fire personnel are emphasizing the need to be prepared and to know what to do in case of the need to evacuate.

On May 27, 2004 the City of Santa Barbara demonstrated that preparedness. City departments responded to a theoretical major incident - a wild fire endangering Mission Canyon and the Riviera. At the Emergency Operation Center, located in the Police Station basement, the various department representatives addressed and coped with the many situations reported during the four hour exercise. At regular briefings, topics such as fire behavior, traffic control, evacuations, equipment needs, shelter and food, communications and data collections were addressed and acted on.

As a member of the Riviera Association and past President, Brigitte Forssell was invited to observe this exercise. She was impressed with the professionalism and conduct of all participants and believes our city government is well prepared to deal with a major fire incident. However, she does report that fire professionals are extremely concerned about preparedness of residents. If you don't know what to do or don't have a plan yet in the case of a wild land fire, please contact the Fire Department at 564-5703.

Road & Traffic Safety

It has come to our attention that speeding traffic is threatening the safety of pedestrians at the intersection by the Sheffield Reservoir building. Members of the Board have approached City transportation officials to suggest ways to slow down traffic at this intersection, where Mountain drive (both above and below the intersection)

and Mission Ridge (from Mountain Drive) meet. Many people walk to and from the Los Canoas side of the Riviera to Hillcrest Road and Franceschi Park and have to face a very dangerous crossing at the reservoir building. There will be even more pedestrian traffic once the old reservoir is replaced with new underground water tanks, and the city finishes the above ground passive park with walking trails. It has been suggested that the City approach Cal Trans to put in a pedestrian crossing or four-way stop signs on Highway 192 at the intersection. Support for such measures from Riviera Association members would be helpful in making a case for some sort of amelioration at this crucial corner.

This and other road safety issues should be brought to the attention of Muriel Ridland, Streets Subcommittee, 965-9613.

Help Your Garden Through the Drought

As you all know, Santa Barbara is facing drought conditions. One way to maximize the moisture content in your soil and protect your garden in a drought is to mulch. One of our members reports that the County of Santa Barbara has a mulch program, administered by Richard Placentia at 805-681-4346. The county converts all the county green waste to mulch, which it sells to county landscapers and provides for free to county residents. Residents pay only a delivery charge of \$25 for every 10 cubic yards of mulch. This product amends the soil, provides nutrients, reduces weed growth, and helps the soil retain water. Because the mulch is inflammable, it also provides a great fire barrier. If you want to take advantage of this great resource for garden mulch, call and leave a message with Richard and he will call back to schedule delivery. The product can also be obtained in smaller quantities at the county transfer station at the free pile.

Riviera Association Website

The Riviera Association continues to update its web site to inform members of current issues, history, and to provide links to city services. Visit our site at: www.sb-riviera.org. If you have ideas on how to improve it or issues you would like to see discussed, please contact Riviera Association board member, Helen Couclelis.

Enclosed, please find a card and envelope for sending in your membership dues for the year 2005. Dues are still \$20.00 per year. Please enclose your check and send it to P.O. Box 41838, Santa Barbara, CA 93140-1838.

Please take a minute to fill out the following questionnaire to let us know how you would like to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Riviera Association. Tear off this section and send it with your dues in the envelope provided.

Thank you for your response.

Questions for 75th Anniversary. Please answer all that apply.

- 1. Would you be interested in attending an event at El Encanto that may require some donation to costs?**

- 2. Are you interested in informal events for the family, such as picnics?**

- 3. Do you have any ideas (suggestions) for events?**

- 4. Did you attend the 50th Anniversary at El Encanto?
Comments?**