



A Newsletter for Crest

Volume 9

January/February 2008

Number 1



Firestorm 2007 Assistance

As we enter into the new year, Crest residents can be grateful they do not have to re-live the experiences of the 2003 Cedar fires. As the Cedar fire victims will recall, most non-fire victims tend to “move on” when a disaster no longer affects their lives. It might surprise you to hear that many residents in the east county rural areas, both fire victims and non-fire victims alike, still do not have drinking water, telephone service, or internet restored at this time. While long term recovery centers are in the planning stages for each of the major fire areas, they will not be opened until mid-January.

At a recent Crest Community meeting, questions were raised as to how Crest residents could best assist victims of the 2007 fires. A survey was sent to both fire victims and volunteers of the 2003 Cedar fire asking them what efforts were most comforting and beneficial during the rebuilding process. These responses might inspire you to become involved and help those less fortunate. Thanks to all that contributed.

- I appreciated everything people donated to us. If anything, it was a morale booster. It was difficult at times to wade through everything. Storage of donated items was an issue for us, but we were so grateful anyway. People went out of their way to help us. Money was nice as were gift cards, because we could choose our own style of things (I particularly preferred that for clothing). One of my favorite "cards" was for the Salvation Army Thrift Store.
- George Kerher's insurance help was probably the very best and most useful help of all. I also appreciated all the volunteers who came to help clear my property. It was such an emotional job and I didn't seem to have any energy to do it. Also, there was a luncheon for home-schooling moms who lost their homes. We were treated to a fabulous lunch, a great speaker who was also a home schooling mom who had lost her home in a fire 10 years earlier, and we were provided with the opportunity to freely take offered curriculum.
- As our home was still standing but electricity was not available, the "no questions asked" loan of a generator made our stay possible till power was restored. The victim's center at Nancy Jane Park was a big help for the duration. Water donations were also appreciated during Phase 1.
- I did not lose my home in the Crest fire but did reach out and adopted a family. We provided them with immediate essential items, food, clothes, kitchenware, etc. Throughout the next couple of years I provided a shoulder to cry on, ears to listen, and basic emotional support. I was

in need of emotional recovery also as I felt a strong survivor's guilt!

- When I was a fire victim, my friends helped the most by helping to clear the large debris from the lot and sifting through the ashes for valuables. Also they offered a shoulder to cry on, a mirror for the reactions we all have to this disaster, and a ticket away from the ashes every once in a while to remind us it still is a big, beautiful green world out there.
- In the beginning of recovery - a ride to the LAC and help with photographing the site, getting insurance company out to get photos, establishing a system for paperwork.
- The search for a new home - use existing plans if they have them and like them, or help research many building plans for ideas. Then research architects, engineers, or drafts persons. Contact building department to learn processing for permits. MEANWHILE, invite fire survivors to your house to dine, take them to movies, especially to the zoo, and to gardens or other places with lots of color. Grey and black gets really boring after a while.
- The building phase - help out with construction if you have those skills. Help locate temporary occupancy (often trailers) for them, and be sure to help them incorporate an outdoor living room as well. Bringing meals during intense labor sessions would be appreciated also.
- (From a Dulzura fire victim) You ask how Crest could help; well I thought of something. For those who lost their homes, they need to get a temporary pole put in and then hooked up by SDG&E. They need to get a permit for this and several inspections. Patti has been so kind to give her pole to our neighbor. They had no insurance (renting) and the owner had no insurance. My husband is going to help dig out Patti's pole. (Call 44-Crest if you have a pole to donate.)

Want to help? Until the long term recovery centers are up and operational, you can direct your calls to the 211 San Diego's non-emergency community phone line. They can put you in touch with the correct agencies for

your donations and/or volunteer efforts. The Crest Sun will continue to provide information on how you can become involved as it is received.

Next Crest Sun Deadline: February 20, 2008

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**** The Crest Library can not accept donations for the paper due to policy. Feel free to drop by a local store and donate at your convenience.**

The Crest Sun welcomes information from the Community and community input. Thanks to all our loyal readers and supporters. Your donations and your patronization of our sponsors provide the funds to print the newsletter. This is our only expense. We have no paid employees. The newsletter is not responsible for problems that occur as a result of information

Events and Contacts

Crest Calendar of Events January/February		
01/02	10:00 am	Crest Siren Test
01/03	11:00 am 1-3 pm	Spanish Book Club- Library Regular Book Club -Library
01/04	7:30 pm	Fire Board Meeting -station
01/08	1:00 pm	Crest Historical Society Meeting - Library
01/08	6:30 pm	Estate/Financial Planning Crest Library
01/10	7:00 pm Clubhouse	Fire Safe Council Mtg. Jan Gonzales -Speaker
01/12	8:00 pm	Kiwanis Mtg - Clubhouse
01/14	10:00 am	Crest Garden Club Crest Clubhouse
01/17	6:30 pm	E-Crest-rians- Clubhouse
01/21	6:00 pm	Kiwanis Mtg – Clubhouse
01/14	7:00 pm	Sub-Regional Planning Group - Clubhouse
01/15	7:00 p.m	CCA Meeting – Clubhouse
01/29	2-8 pm library	Passport Renewals Call 442-70083 to sign up.
02/05	1:00 pm	Crest Historical Society Mtg – Library
02/12	7:30 pm	Fire Board Meeting – Crest Fire Station
02/06	10:00 am	Test of Crest Siren
02/09	8:00 am	Kiwanis Mtg.- Clubhouse
02/11	10:00 am	Crest Garden Club - TBA
02/11	7:00 pm	Sub-Regional Planning Grp Clubhouse
02/19	7:00 pm	CCA Meeting – Clubhouse
02/18	6:00 pm	Kiwanis Mtg - Clubhouse
02/20	5:00	Deadline for March/April Crest Sun advertisements
02/21	6:30 pm	E-Crest-rians - clubhouse
4/7		Padre Contest Deadline
Crest Websites:		
www.thcrestsun.com – Crest Community website		
www.crestschoolpta.com – Crest School PTA website		
www.cajonvalley.net/crest - Crest school website		

Crest Community Contacts		
CCA	Noelle Carranza	447-6269
Community Church	Anna Johnston	442-3736
Cornerstone Church	Pastor Dennis	579-5633
Crest Black Board	Friends of Crest	44-Crest
Crest Clubhouse Rentals	Debbie Fox Jackie Grace	442-8058 442-1018
Crest Garden Club	Arlene Palmer	441-0187
Crest Historical Scty.	Dorothy Miller	444-0968
Crest Kiwanis	Andy Knutson	442-3349
Crest Library	Rosi Megia	442-7083
Crestridge Ecological Reserve	Cathy Chadwick	749-5767
Crest School	Office	588-3128
Crest Newsletter	Linda Hjelle Chris Seebold	440-8540 447-5826
Crest Sun Website www.thcrestsun.com	Karin Weiss	579-3951
E-Crest-rians	Kandhy Franklin-Collins	444-4996
East County Fire Dept	Business	579-6034
Friends of Crest		44-Crest
Sheriff	Dispatch (858) Business	565-5200
Snake Removal Svcs	Graham	444-7797
St Louise Church	Father Justin Languille	444-3076
Sub-Regional Plan.	Judy Bowen	440-0783
Stores		
Crest Foods	Tony	444-8132
Lenardo Pizzeria	Sam	444-1389
Rainbow Farms Mrkt	Mark	444-7504
Advertisers		
Century 21 Award	Connie Gipson	606-2400
George Bowby Electric	George Bowby	440-3051
Piano Lessons	Amanda Shadrick	588-8862
Right Hand Ladies	Marie	328-1157
Simply Marvelous Org	Risa Goldberg	231-1113
W3U Web Services	Jack Martin	800- 644-0305
Therapeutic Message	Mary Kay Vega	443-2844
Xango	Marie	328-1157
	<i>This Sign is for you!!!</i> <i>With the help of the Kiwanis and the Fire Department, the community sign board at the top of the hill has been moved so both sides of Crest can easily read the sign. Additionally, it now has solar lighting.</i>	

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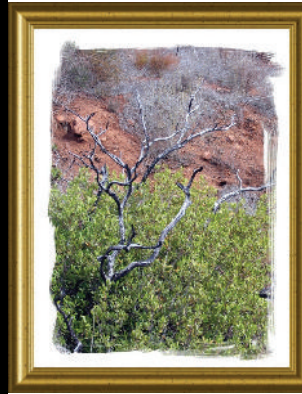
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webmaster@thecrestsun.com**

School Calendars

Cajon Valley Union School District Crest School Holiday Schedule 2007-2008

08/20	First Day of School	02/11	President's Day (Lincoln)
9/3	Labor Day	02/18	President's Day (Washington)
11/12	Veterans Day	03/15-03/30	Spring Break
11/21-11/23	Thanksgiving Holiday	05/26	Memorial Day
12/15 – 01/06	Winter Break	06/12	Last Day of School
01/21	Martin Luther King Holiday		

Grossmont Union High School District Granite Hills Holiday Schedule 2007-2008

08/20	First Day of School	02/11	President's Day (Lincoln)
9/3	Labor Day	02/18	President's Day (Washington)
11/12	Veterans Day	03/17-03/28	Spring Break
11/22-11/23	Thanksgiving Holiday	05/26	Memorial Day
12/24 – 01/04	Winter Break	06/05	Last Day of School
01/21	Martin Luther King Holiday		

Crest Community Association

Santa was escorted to the new CCA clubhouse on December 14 by the firefighters with lights flashing and siren blaring. The clubhouse was welcoming with gay decorations, a beautiful tree and lots of refreshments. Risa Goldberg regaled guests with her accordion.

The clubhouse is nearly complete. Small tasks need attention. The landscaping is the only major effort that still requires lots of volunteer hours. Please, won't you respond when a notice is posted on the chalkboards?

It is time to elect new officers for the CCA. Those on the slate are: Dan Wilson, President; Carl Atkinson, Vice-President; Jackie Grace, Treasurer; and Susan Lee Cooke, Secretary. Elections will be held at the January meeting on January 15. We had hoped to have several candidates for each office, but no one else volunteered to be nominated for an office.

Community dinners will begin again soon. This is a wonderful way to feed the family for very little money and see your neighbors. Also, it is a fund raiser for the CCA.

The clubhouse is available for rent for your wedding receptions, bridal showers, birthday parties, etc.

Please contact Debbie Milligan Fox at 442-8058 or Jackie Grace at 442-1018 for details.

Next Meetings:

January 15, Tuesday 7:00 PM

February 19, Tuesday 7:00 PM

(Refreshments and Door Prizes)

Questions? Call 44crest and
leave a message!

The CCA is a non-profit organization with an elected board whose volunteers work toward bettering the community in which we live.

**Join CCA – Support your community
Application on page 6**

Special January Programs at Crest Library

Crest Library is pleased to welcome Crest resident **Chuck Shackelford on Tuesday, January 8 at 6:30p.m.** Chuck will be providing tips on such matters as how to handle financial affairs, estate planning, titling of assets, health care directives, and safe places to keep all documents. There will be time for Q&A.

Chuck graduated from Granite Hills High School, Stanford University, and Stanford School of Law. He has been a financial planner for many years and has given numerous talks for banks, brokerage firms, real estate agencies, insurance companies and charities.

On Tuesday, **January 29**, a representative from the **U.S. Postal Service** will be on hand to process passport applications as well as to take your passport photo and collect applicable fees. This will save you time and the effort of going off the hill to apply. Please check with Crest Library staff at 442-7083 for details and time of passport program. Or stop by the library if you are interested and sign up.

Club de Lectura

The library will be offering a new Spanish book club, "Club de Lectura", meeting on the 1st Thursday of each month at 11a.m. On January 3, the group will be meeting to discuss Patricia Cornwell's El Cuerpo del Delito .

Computer Class – As a reminder, we offer free computer classes on Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. (available also in Spanish). Please call Rose for an appointment.

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM IN WITH YOUR CHECK

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| _____ Lifetime \$500 | _____ Sustaining \$150 | _____ Business \$50 |
| _____ Family \$35 | _____ Individual \$25 | _____ Senior \$12 (65+) |

Name: _____ Phone#: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Please check your areas of interest! The more active you are the more fun you'll have!

Committees:

- ____ Membership ____ Special events (July 4th) ____ Spaghetti Dinners, concerts, etc.
____ Governance ____ Community Garden ____ Volunteer committee

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Crest Community Association

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The Works (Pepperoni, Canadian bacon, Sausage, Onion, Mushroom, Green pepper, Black olives, Pineapple and Jalapeno)	\$15.99	\$19.99	\$28.99
Calzone (Mozzarella, Ricotta, & Parmesan cheese)	\$8.99		
Additional topping:	\$1.00	\$1.50	\$2.50

Subs & Sandwiches

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Turkey & Cheese	\$4.99
BLT	\$4.99
Vegetarian Sub	\$4.99
Italian Sub (Ham, Salami, & cheese)	\$5.49
Club Sub (Turkey, Bacon & Cheese)	\$5.49
Roast Beef Sub	\$5.49
BBQ Sandwich	\$5.49
Meat Ball Sub	\$5.49
Italian Sausage Sub	\$5.49
Gyros Sandwich	\$5.49
Ham, Turkey & Cheese	\$5.99
Lenardo's Special Sub (Roast Beef, Turkey, & Cheese)	\$5.99

ALL SUBS SERVED W/LETTUCE, TOMATO, ONION, PEPPERONCINE, & ITALIAN DRESSING

Salads:

Garden Salad (Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Green pepper, Olives & Pepperoncine)	\$3.99
Antipasto Salad (Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Green pepper, Pepperoncine, Olives, Ham Salami, Mozzarella Cheese)	\$5.50
Greek Salad (Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Green pepper, Pepperoncine, Olives, Red Cabbage & Feta Cheese)	\$5.50
Chef Salad (Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Green pepper, Pepperoncine, Olives, Ham, Turkey Mozzarella Cheese)	\$5.50

ALL SALAD SERVED WITH THREE DRESSING CUPS OF YOUR CHOICE

Combo:

½ lb Hamburger Combo	\$5.49
½ lb Shrimp Combo	\$5.49
Chicken Sandwich Combo	\$5.49
Fried Chicken Combo	\$5.49
Fish & Chips Combo	\$5.99
Gyro's Combo	\$6.49
Hot Wings Combo	\$6.49
Philly Steak Combo (Steak meat, mushroom, onion, green pepper & Cheese)	\$6.49
Philly Chicken Combo (Breast chicken, mushroom, onion, green pepper, & cheese)	\$6.49

ALL COMBOS SERVED WITH FRIES AND SALAD

Pasta:

Lasagna	\$5.99
Spaghetti with Meatballs	\$5.99
Meat Ravioli	\$5.99
Cheese Ravioli	\$5.99

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Side Order:

Baklava	\$1.25
Slice of Pizza	\$1.85
French Fries	\$2.39
Bread Sticks	\$3.99

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Crestridge Ecological Reserve

News for Early 2008



Post-fire Landscaping Debates: Although the fires this fall did not affect Crest as they did in the fall of 2003, many people continue to replace their landscaping. Since the Cedar Fire, others are just looking for the right way to plant and maintain a yard that is water-wise, friendly to our surrounding habitat, and fire-resistant. You also may have seen articles in the newspaper with conflicting information about the causes and effects of

fires on our native habitat and the best methods for dealing with burned areas. Here are some resources that may be useful:

- In the brochure, Invasive Plants and Wildfires in Southern California, experts from UC Davis talk about non-native plants that can create problems for native plants and animals after fires. Go to <http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/files/filelibrary/1359/39103.pdf> to see the brochure.
- The California Native Plant Society provides a wealth of information about fire-wise landscaping that also supports the native habitat in Native Plant Landscaping to Reduce Fire Risk. It's available at <http://www.cnpssd.org/fire/ReduceFireRisk.pdf>. (If you'd like a copy of either publication mailed to you, contact Cathy Chadwick at the number at the end of this article.)
- After the Cedar Fire, many Crest residents were able to hear presentations by Richard Halsey, a San Diego county resident and author of the book Fire, Chapparal, and Survival in Southern California. Rick is a chapparal habitat expert and firefighter with realistic and scientifically-based suggestions for living in wildland interface areas. An updated version of his book is due out in late January. It's an interesting and important read for anyone who wants to understand the issues of fire in an area like Crest.

Reserve Use Reminders: Crestridge is open to the public during daylight hours year-round. Hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians are welcome, as are dogs on leashes. No motorized vehicles are allowed because of the threat posed by their activity and their noise to threatened plant and animal species for which Crestridge is one of few remaining places of refuge.

2007-08 School Programs Update: In the first half of the 07-08 school year, Crestridge hosted 1,200 students, mostly in grades 4-6. All field trip activities are tied directly to required state curriculum standards so the Reserve is truly an outdoor classroom. An additional 1,200 students will visit in from January – March. More volunteers are needed to support this exciting and innovative program. See below!!

Volunteers needed at Crestridge: Volunteer at our own ecological reserve in Crest. Come be a part of changing the world in your own backyard.

- **Interested in working with children?** Volunteers are needed to share your love of the outdoors with children. Enjoy doing hands-on projects with curious student to help them learn more about ecology. Volunteers are needed to be field instructors or assistants. No experience is necessary and training is provided.
- **Interested to helping maintain our beautiful reserve** by planting, watering or working on special projects?
- **Interested in learning more about our natural habitat** through ongoing training with a variety of experts? See contact information below. We need you!

Final Management Plan Hearing: Crestridge, like all reserves, must have management plan that addresses its ecological value and plans for maintenance and restoration. The original Crestridge Management Plan was brought to the Crest community before the Cedar Fire. The final draft considers input from the first community meeting as well as changes needed since the fire. The final hearing on the plan will be sometime in March 2008, at the clubhouse in Crest. A copy of the plan will be available at the library 30 days before the meeting. Watch the chalkboard for updates and details.

Questions? Call Cathy Chadwick (619) 749-5767 or chadgroup@cox.net

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Crest Fire Safe Council

CREST FIRE SAFE COUNCIL (CFSC) HAS COMMUNITY MEETINGS JUST FOR YOU!

On January 10th at 7 pm at the Crest Club House, we are very proud to have Jan Gonzales, the Project Coordinator of the Wildfire Education and Outreach Program at the University of California Cooperative Extension-Farm and Home Advisors' Office, County of San Diego. She will be speaking on Wildfire Zones- how to understand the areas around your home and how to choose plants that create a defensible space. All are welcome, bring paper and pencil for notes. Refreshments will be served.

The next general meeting of the Council will discuss the use of fireproofing with paint, an option of painting a gel on your home. We will also be providing information on "TO GO BAGS", phone numbers to call, a list of services to post on your fridge, and lots more. Come and be a part of the solution in making our community safe and Fire wise! If there are topics you would like to include and discuss, contact : crestfiresafecouncil@yahoo.com anytime. We would love to hear from you.

Your **CFSC** is also in the process of updating our evacuation plan as well as the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, lovingly referred by us as our "**CWPP**". The Council is working on grants, as well as finishing up some projects in South Lane Park. Two of the first submittal items for the Fire Safe Council Grant Clearing House will be for fuel reduction using goats, and having a chipper available for our residents. We will be attending classes on grant writing and conferences on how to be safer. Please use the Crest Sun web site www.thecrestsun.com to get more information on classes, conferences and work parties that CFSC will be offering or hosting.

From Friends of Crest - A special Thanks

A special thanks to those that reached out to The Friends of Crest by making a donation for the One Call Now Emergency Notification System. In case you weren't aware, Kandhy Franklin-Collins had taken on the majority of the cost of this system on her own. As costs increased due to the number of calls made during the fires, word got out and many folks stepped forward to help with the costs. While many dropped by the center to make cash donations, we also received several large donations. Thanks so much for the following generous checks to support this endeavor.

Lee Slaughter	\$100
Maureen Neumayer-Fishbeck	\$100
Kitty's Doctor, PLLC (Thanks to Jackie & Tom Grace for raising such a generous daughter)	\$1,000
Lyons Masonry, Inc.	\$1,000
Thomas C. (Carl) & Roberta Atkinson	\$250





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1220 Gibson Highlands	\$725,000
109 La Cresta Heights Road	\$850,000

Vacant Land

No vacant land properties have recently sold.



Data from Sandicor, Inc. and the San Diego Recorder's Office for June 2007 through December 20, 2007 represents properties listed or sold by various brokers. While believed to be reliable, it cannot be guaranteed. If your property is currently listed, this is not meant as a solicitation.



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East County Fire Protection District – Prop E Update

by Linda Hjelle

Information for this article was obtained from Dawn Hubert and Kandhy Franklin, Fire Board members.

With the passage of Proposition E, the citizens of Crest have insured that our Fire Station in Crest will continue to receive funds to be staffed for medical and fire services. One might think that this is the end to the decision making process for the East County Fire Protection District Board; this is not the case. The passing of Proposition E has opened the doors to additional options.

To provide some history, the focus of the newly elected fire board in June 2007 was to investigate and find solutions to the financial problems threatening to close one or more of the East County Fire Protection District (ECFPD) fire stations. If you did not have the opportunity to attend the many meetings over the past year, it is easy to over-simplify the issues.

An assessment was not the Board's original objective to resolve this complex issue. They sought to join forces with one of the neighboring fire departments only to find that districts were not interested in merging while ECFPD had a deficit spending issue. The Fire Board also met with Diane Jacobs and the San Diego LAFCO Task Force who has been working on a project for several years to supplement fire protection funding for departments. While ECFPD signed on to this project several years ago, no funds have ever been attached to this project. Consequently, this was not a solution to address the fire district's immediate financial problems.

After investigating these options and more, a fire suppression assessment seemed to be the only alternative. The assessment was designed to provide the financial assistance needed to open doors for a long term solution with the assurance that the monies would apply to the East County Fire Protection area. After many lengthy discussions and surveys, the Fire board compromised on an assessment in the amount of \$250 per parcel,

which they felt the community could accept. It was understood that this amount could provide an immediate financial solution as well as provide the resources to find a long term solution.

Now that Prop E has passed, it has indeed opened the doors to new possibilities and considerations. An ad hoc committee was formed to explore the issues of long term stabilization, based on many of the suggestions of numerous community members at the time of considering instituting a vote for the assessment. The Fire Board and Committee have been in a fact finding mode exploring various options. Three of the options include:

1. Keeping the ECFPD district as is.

This insures immediate solvency in addition to the needed pay increases for our underpaid firefighters and Medical Response Staff. However, the district eventually could find itself in another financial predicament in future years. The ever increasing cost of Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services, the cost to hire and maintain the appropriate staff, and the need to maintain capitol improvement savings will continue to increase. An additional consideration is that there is a trend for fire districts to move toward larger districts through consolidation. It is difficult to say how long ECFD will be able to stand alone before being forced into some kind of consolidation.

2. Considering the LAFCO Proposal (CSA 135) - The goal of the LAFCO proposal is the reorganization of fire protection under a single authority which the County Board of Supervisors would govern. It is set up to stabilize funding between unequally funded districts. When ECFPD signed on to this Phase One consolidation, all participating districts were underfunded, understaffed, and underserved regions/districts of the County.

While special assessment monies can not leave the district from which they are drawn, a redistribution of property tax monies would be made to bring each district in line with the next. Since ECFPD is now the best funded district in the Phase I consideration, there would be no additional funding for ECFPD. By joining, our district would give our

assessments and property taxes over to the Board of Supervisors to run and fund our district with the monies we currently have. The current status of this project is that there is still no funding available for this project. As of the December 2007 LAFCO meeting, the LAFCO committee handed the project back over to the County Board of Supervisors stating the program could go no further towards ratification until a renewable, substantial form of funding was available.

3. Merging with another district -

Another consideration is merging with a larger local self governed agency based on the fire business trend of merging multiple agencies. The theory is that it is less expensive and more efficient to run multiple stations with less management compared to many smaller agencies all having their own management. Although it would mean conjoining funds and leaving management with a different agency, the ECFPD would have the choice of who, how, and if this is to take place. There would also be the opportunity to hold office on the Board of Directors of the district.

A Citizen Fact Finding Committee, (formed at the November 2007 fire board meeting), continues to investigate options. This ad hoc committee has been in conversation with LAFCO, Lakeside Fire, San Miguel and has reviewed a recent contract offer from the City of El Cajon and a CDF (CALFIRE) contract from 2006.

You can stay informed by attending the monthly Fire Board Meetings which are held the first Tuesday of the month at the fire station.

Siren Tests - 10:00 am:

Wednesday, January 2 & February 6


Just a reminder that there will be a test of the Crest Fire Siren the first Wednesday of the Month, January 2, 2008. The test will be for the duration of 1 minute and 30 seconds in order to test the amount of amperage going into the siren and the amount to sustain it. There may be a need to more tests as we go forward trying to improve the system.

Thank you,
Crest Fire Safe Council

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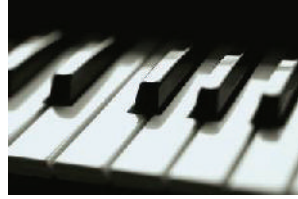
Is your yard water-efficient? If so, enter the Landscape Contest sponsored by Padre Dam Municipal Water District and you could win \$500 in prizes.

Fall is the perfect time to make changes to your landscaping. It also gives your landscape a few months to grow in before entering the Landscape Contest.

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For more information, call Melissa at 619-258-4680 or visit

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About Crest..



Russell's Rockhouse

Russell's Rockhouse is a Crest landmark located on Hillside Place, overlooking the canyon near Descanso Lane and Eucalyptus Drive.

It is believed the house was built in the late 1920s by Thomas Russell, who at one time was the President of the San Diego Zoological Society.

Excerpts from the May, 1975 LaCresta News article quoted the builder as saying:

"I did leave my heart in Suncrest - and a monument: the house at 255 Hillside Place. It was not easy to build that house on salt and pepper granite, but it was a joy to do....." I did love to get out and explore those fascinating mountains, old Indian trails, artifacts, beautiful minerals and unexpected spots of beauty, yellow violets, maiden hair fern and things one would not imagine finding. It was an experience I shall never forget!"



Luther Card owned the property from 1951 to 1968. Dr James Greer, a historian, owned the house until 1973 when Elliott and Syliva Binley purchased the property.

Mr. and Mrs. Binley are present owners of the property. Elliott Binley discovered during a remodel of the house, that the property nearly burned in the 1970 fire. It had sustained significant damage to the ceiling and window area. The property is now well covered with trees and native plants. Also a second house was later added to the property as shown in this recent photo. The houses are partially visible from Descanso Lane or Eucalyptus Drive.

*Information for this article was obtained from the Echos Newsletters located in Crest Library from the **Crest Historical Society** (CHS). CHS is always looking for new members. There is one general meeting a year. A monthly workshop meets the first Tuesday of each month at 1 pm at the Library. Members receive ECHOES, the newsletter, 4 times a year. For information call Dorothy Miller 444-0968.*

Do you have additional historical information to share? E-Mail editor@thecrestsun.com

An additional thank you to Mr. Elliott Binley for his contribution to this article.

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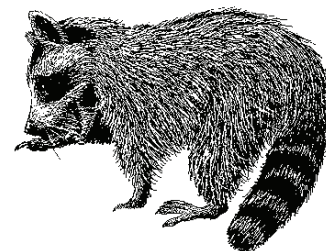
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Critters in Crest

Raccoons

By Stanley A. Shelton



I've seen raccoon "road kill" all over San Diego county, but I have only seen one, on La Cresta Road, in the past 16 years. I asked a few neighbors if they'd ever seen raccoons here in Crest, and a couple said yes. One told of a lady that used to feed them on her front porch. This is not advisable.

I asked this question of my neighbors, after a night that I saw what looked like the shadow of a raccoon walking by our bedroom sliding glass doors. Because of the darkness, I couldn't be sure, but the next morning, we discovered the fountain on the pond filter had been tipped over in the pond. Raccoons eat fish. They are omnivorous. (This is the same pond the snowy egret (or egrets) feasted at some months ago.) Raccoons also eat berries, insects, fruit, small mammals, carrion and garbage. They will raid our trash cans and our pet's food dishes. They have been known to enter homes via pet doors.

Speaking of road kill, man is the raccoon's worst enemy, and best friend. More raccoons are killed by cars than by anything else. As best friends, some people feed them and in some states, it is legal to keep them as pets, though a permit may be required. **It is illegal to keep raccoons as pets in California.** Some raccoons are killed by bobcats, great horned owls and hunters. By hunters, mostly in southeastern U.S.

The common raccoon (also spelled racoon), Scientific Name: *Procyon lotor*, is a skilled scavenger and is a pest most everywhere it ranges, which is nearly the entire United States of America and south to Panama. (They had even been introduced in Europe, starting in Germany before WWII.)

Contrary to popular belief (or it used to be popular belief), raccoons do not wash their food before eating it. This is an act called dousing. It is not known why raccoons do this, but it is not for the purpose of washing their food. Raccoons held in captivity are more likely to perform the act of dousing than those in the wild. Even when water is not available, they often go through the motions of dousing. Scientists are still trying to figure out why they do this.

Most everywhere they range, they are considered over-populated. They can reach a population density of 100 per square mile. (Highly unlikely in Crest.) Their *Conservation Status* is of **Least Concern**. In some areas, hunters are encouraged, or even paid, to shoot raccoons. They often take up residence in parts of people's homes: in the attics or basements or even *under* houses. I have an acquaintance that lives in Carlsbad that told me raccoons had even pried up roofing tiles to access, and take up residence, in the attics of their homes there! Raccoons have thumbs that allow them to do things like open trash cans, but they are not opposable thumbs, and so they cannot do what we can do with *our* thumbs, and that's a good thing!

Raccoons are distinctive in appearance having dark patches of fur around the eyes, making them look like they are wearing a bandit's mask, and the color bands on their ten inch tail (ten inches is an average length). The average adult raccoon weighs between six and a half pounds and 35 pounds, but they *can* be larger. Their body length is usually between two and three feet. They are nocturnal in nature, so if you see one in the daytime, it may be sick or scavenging food for their young. Beware of any raccoon you see during daylight hours, and especially any that act aggressive towards pets or humans, they may have rabies. They can also carry other undesirable diseases like canine distemper, and parvovirus. So be aware of these things if you see one, or one becomes a pest around your home.

Our Backyard..

By Christina Seebold

LAS VEGAS BOUND

CREST RESIDENT MORIAH ANGELINE

(SEEBOLD) aka "The Magnificent Varvo" has earned the lead role of "Sophie" in the Broadway production of "Mamma Mia" opening at the Mandalay Bay Hotel in Las Vegas on the 28th of January and running through August. Moriah, has trained and worked toward her goal for many years, beginning with dance and music lessons as a child, continuing through the Granite Hills Acting Workshop in high school, and performing locally in theaters throughout the county. We are very proud of her, and wish her continued success.

3 cheers !!!

CONGRATULATIONS MORIAH!

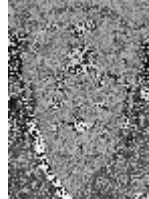
CREST GARDEN CLUB

On Monday, November 11th, club members met at Pat Ulm's beautiful new home. Master Gardener, Joyce Gimmel, gave a presentation on fire- safe landscaping. She provided lots of informational materials and suggested we access the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Dept. website www.rsf-fire.org to get their complete list of plants recommended for the Shelter-in-Place concept.

The December 10th holiday meeting was held in the fabulous, newly finished, Crest club house. A small living Christmas tree was donated to be raffled. Members discussed the clubhouse landscape design and formed a committee to coordinate the design revision and implement the planting.

The January 14th meeting will be a work party at the Crest Clubhouse at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome. In 2008 there will be a field trip to a Rancho Santa Fe Shelter-in- Place community which survived the recent October wildfires.

The garden club meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 10 am. For information, contact Arlene Palmer at 441-0187.



FAREWELL TIM MOORMAN

Tim Moorman, a great supporter of our community passed away December 17th. Services celebrating his life were held Saturday, December 22 at the El Cajon

Mortuary. A reception was held following the services with family, friends, and residents of Crest, at the Sycuan Casino. Tim will be greatly missed in the Crest Community.

Timothy Moorman of El Cajon, passed away suddenly on December 17th at the age of 61. His death was due to pulmonary embolism, a complication of recent surgery. Tim was a native Californian and moved to El Cajon in the early 50's. Tim graduated from Granite Hills High School in El Cajon and served in the United States Air Force in Germany and at March Air Force Base. A general building contractor for over 30 years, he was highly respected and a role model to many. He was an established member of the East County community of Crest. He supported the Crest area and received an honorary award from the California Firefighters Association for his heroic efforts during the Cedar Fire. Tim especially enjoyed driving his 1963 fire truck annually in the Mother Goose parade and the Crest Fourth of July parade. He was thrilled with racing and shared many fun times with his friend Randy Walls and his racing team. Tim brought joy to many. This was especially true during Christmas, when he donned Santa's outfit and thrilled children throughout San Diego County. Tim is survived by his beloved wife of 25 years, Emma Lea, mother Millie of El Cajon, sister Marcheta Shoemaker of El Cajon, children Tami Davis of Fallbrook and Amy Haddad of Los Angeles, and three grandchildren Mackenzie, Mason and Alexandra. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the East County Fire Protection District in memory of Tim Moorman.

E-Crest-Rian News

We have had some exciting "Fun Shows" these last few months and even sponsored an Obstacle Clinic. Pictures were posted to the Crest Sun web page thanks to Karin Weiss. You should check www.thecrestsun.com often to see if you and your horse are there!



We are now looking ahead to the New Year to see if there is more we can do. We would like to begin with a few "**Gatherings**" with our horse family and friends that includes eating, of course! If there are no calendar conflicts, we would like to have the **first Gathering the 3rd Thursday of January which is the 17th, and February 21st, at the clubhouse at 6:30**. If everyone that is interested would bring their friends and families, we can set a calendar that has something for everyone! All horse lovers are invited. If you need more information or would like to help, call Kandy Franklin 619-444-4996, Jan Rosander at 440-2133 or 44-CREST.

South Park News: The final touches of the lease agreement with the County and electrical pole are being completed as this paper goes to print. With this in place, we can go forward with the announcer's booth, and the rest of the plans for the park. The E-Crest-Rians are also in the grant writing phase to help with the expenses of the park along with the Fire Safe Council. We should be hearing soon from our Supervisor as to the status of our proposal which has been submitted to the Board of Supervisor's. Keep your fingers crossed! Have a great New Year by becoming a part of our new revamped and fun E-Crest-Rian group.



Crest Kiwanis

**Happy New Year to all of you
from the Crest Kiwanis.**



Crest Kiwanis had its first community breakfast at the newly opened CCA building. The food was good, the kitchen works great, and a good time was had by all. We are looking forward to many more! Look for the signs about once a month.

Upcoming Kiwanis meetings at

CCA Community Center:

Saturday January, 12 8:00AM

Monday January 21 6:00 PM

Saturday February 9 8:00 AM

Monday February 18 6:00 PM



January & February 2008

*January is the month dedicated to Self Improvement.
Celebrate Black History Month in February!*

Crest Branch - 105 Juanita Lane - El Cajon, CA 92021
Library Hours: Tuesday 12-8 Wed & Thurs 10-6
Friday 10-5 Saturday 10-3
619-442-7083

❖ Programs for Adults

Introduction to Computers Beginners: *Thursdays, 11-11:30 a.m.*
Intermediate: *Thursdays, 11:30-12 p.m.* Contact Rosi for an appointment
(classes available in Spanish)

Mystery Book Club 1st Thursdays, noon

January 3, Suspicious Origin, by Patricia MacDonald
February 7, It had to be you, by Jill Churchill

Club de Lectura Book discussion group in Spanish. 1st Thursdays at 11 a.m.
February 7, El Cuerpo del Delito, por Patricia Cornwell.

❖ Family Programs – All Ages

Saturday Family Craft Programs at 11 a.m.

January 5, Origami Fun! February 2, Shrinky Dink
January 12, More Origami! February 9, Beginning Knitters
January 19, Soap Making February 1-23, Card Making
January 26, Scrapbooking Club

Celebrate January Self-improvement Month Chuck Shackelford, Crest
resident presents: "Estate Planning" Tuesday, January 8, 6:30 p.m.

Need a passport? Come and apply for one at the library on Tuesday,
January 29, call branch for information.

Celebrate February Black History Month! Jackie Bacon local author
discusses her latest book: Freedom's Journal, Tuesday, February 19, 6:30 p.m.

❖ Children's Programs

Read to Burnie Stop by anytime to read to a big, friendly, stuffed dog.
Great opportunity for all children, including those fearful of real dogs.

Rosi's Craft & Coloring Table Every Tuesday during open hours.

PJ Storytime & Craft Tuesday, January 29 & February 12, 6:30 p.m.

Baby Storytime Wednesday, January 16 & February 20, 10:30 a.m.

❖ Teen Programs

Make It & Take It Crafts Saturdays at 11 a.m. All supplies provided.

Wii Like to Play! Saturday, January 05 – January 12

Play Station Game Fun Saturday, February 2 - 16

Wii Like to Play! Tuesday, February 12 -23

*All Library Programs are subject to change or cancellation without notice.
Todos los programas de la biblioteca son sujeto a cambio o cancelación sin aviso.*

