



A Newsletter for Crest

Volume 8

May/June 2007

Number 6

Crest Community Fights to Save Fire Station

A Town Hall Meeting/ Spaghetti Fundraising event was held April 19th at Crest Elementary School. The spaghetti dinner event was a great success and Friends of Crest raised over of \$11,500. Included into this figure are all the monies that were donated from the various organizations as well as individual donations. Here are the figures to date:



Silent auction	\$3,085
Girl Scout bake sale	400
Crestridge walk	40
Cookie Lee table	50
50/50 Kiwanis Raffle (winnings were donated back to the fund)	784
Spaghetti dinners (322 dinners sold)	2,254
Donations	\$4963

Friends of Crest would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for supporting the Spaghetti Dinner, Silent Auction and Town Hall Meeting event. These include the Fire Station Fund-Raising Committee, CCA, Friends of Crest, Crest PTA, Kiwanis, and the Girl Scouts. There are many more who spontaneously stepped in to help at the last minute. Thanks to all those that donated fabulous items for the silent auction and those of you that purchased them. Thanks to all the people who bought and made more noodles and to Tony for bringing more bread. We sold out after serving 322 dinners, making this a GREAT fundraiser. What a great community and we are honored to be a part of it!

In the event that we missed your donor contact information for the silent auction, and you would like a tax receipt, please submit your name, address, item and suggested selling price to FriendsofCrest@hotmail.com. This is also the contact if you wish to become involved in this worthy project. We will be having another silent auction next month and are seeking donated items for our future fundraiser.

Pancake Breakfast - Thanks to the Kiwanis for raising more than \$1000 at the Pancake Breakfast (our first big fundraiser) and taking in an additional \$3500 worth of donations for the Fire Station Fund. **WAY TO GO KIWANIS!**

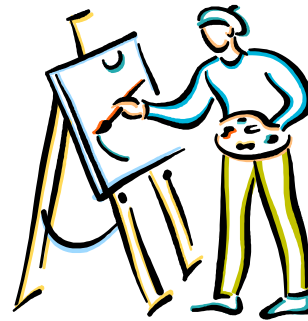
Watch for additional information regarding future Crest fundraising events:

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT:
May 5	Pancake Breakfast	Linda Chase – 447-2652
May 13**	Mother's Day Fiesta Breakfast in the Park	Carl Atkinson – 593-1514
May 22	CCA Taco Night	Noelle Carranza – 447-6269
June 2	Art Show	Ron Tatro – 447-9320
June 15	Casino Night	Gloria Harpeneau -447-2060
June 30	Crest Country Round Up	Kandhy Franklin – 444-4996

** This is not an official fundraiser, however, donations for the fire station will be accepted. If you wish to volunteer or participate in the above events call the numbers above, leave a message at 44-crest, or e-mail us through the www.thecrestsun.com website.

CALL FOR CREST ARTISTS:

We are accepting one dimensional art submittals for the upcoming show at The Crest Community Association Clubhouse June 1, 2007. This is a fund raiser for The Crest Fire Station. Please contact Ron Tatro for more information at 447-9320.



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- Crest Foods
- Crest Library
- Lenardo Pizzeria
- Rainbow Farms

The newsletter is not responsible for problems that occur as a result of information in this newsletter. We assume information to be accurate as given to us.

Crest Sun Editors:

Linda Hjelle – editor@thecrestsun.com or Lindahjelle@cox.net (440-8540)
Contributing editor – Chris Seebold – Winters72@hotmail.com (447-5826)

Crest Website: www.thecrestsun.com

Webmaster: Karin Weiss (579-3951) - thecrestsun@cox.net

The Crest Sun welcomes information from the Community.

Next deadline: June 20, 2007

Child Care Needed in Crest

Beginning Mid-August for a 12 week old infant
Hours: 6:15 – 4:15 Monday-Friday
\$100.00 week Phone (619)328-1629 (Laurie)

Events and Contacts

Crest Calendar of Events		
5/1	1:00	Crest Historical Society Meeting - Library
5/1	7:00 pm	Crest Garden Club-Library
5/1	7:30 pm	Fire Board Meeting Crest Station
5/5	8:30-10:30	Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast
5/12	8:00	Kiwanis Meeting St Louise Parish Hall
5/13	9-11:00 a.m.	Mother's Day Brunch in Nancy Jane Park
5/14-17	12:30-3:30	Book Fair – School Library
5/14	7:00 pm	Community Planning Group – CCA Bldg.
5/15	8:00-9:30	Donut Breakfast- School Library
5/17	6:00	Crest Open House
5/19	8:00- 3:00	Crest Rummage Sale Nancy Jane Park
5/22	TBA	CCA Taco Night Location TBA
5/15	7:00 p.m	CCA Meeting
5/31	5:00-7:30	Crest Elementary 50 th Anniversary /BBQ
5/1	1:00 – Crest Library	Crest Historical Society Mtg - Library
6/2	TBA	Art Show Location CCA Clubhouse
6/2-3		Western Heritage Days Downtown El Cajon
6/5	1:00	Crest Historical Society Meeting - Library
6/5	7:30	Fire Board Meeting – Crest Fire Station
6/5	7:00	Crest Garden Club - Library
6/9	8:00	Kiwanis Meeting St Louise Parish Hall
6/13	11:00	Crest School 5 th Grade Promotions
6/13	5:00	Deadline for July/August Crest Sun advertisements
6/14		Last Day of School
6/15	TBA	Casino Night – El Cajon Elks Club
6/19	7:00	CCA Meeting St Louise Parish Hall
6/30	TBA	Crest Country Round Up South Lane Park

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 Historical Society	Dorothy Miller	444-0968
Crest Kiwanis	Andy Knutson	442-3349
Crest Library		442-7083
Crest School	Office	588-3128
Crest Newsletter	Linda Hjelle Chris Seebold	440-8540 447-5826
Crest Sun Website www.thecrestsun.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
Rural bus		478-5875
Sheriff	Dispatch (858) Business	565-5200
Snake Removal Svcs	Graham (cell)	444-7797 787-4671
St Louise Church	Father Eggleston	444-3076
Sub-Regional Plan.		440-5270
Stores		
Crest Foods	Tony	444-8132
Lenardo Pizzeria	Sam	444-1389
Rainbow Farms Mrkt	Mark	444-7504
Advertisers		
A Crest Plumbing	Eric Mack	590-2625
Avon	Yvonne Daley	449-8556
Crestridge Summer Camp	Cathy Chadwick	749-5767
Crest Dirt Shirts	Graham Smith	787-4671
Century 21	Connie Gibson	606-2400
Jim Kelly Realty	Rayna Mack	922-2524
Kathy Kuts	Kathy Kaderback	447-1945
Magickidsusa.com	Yvonne	
PU-Products	Karin Weiss	334-1913
Re/Max Realtors	Susan Lee Cooke	322-8832
Right Hand Ladies	Marie	328-1157
Simply Marvelous Org	Risa	231-1113
Vacation Guide	Patrick (858)	831-1800
W3U	(800)	644-0305
Winsmoores Treats	Richard Sutton	442-9537
Xango		328-1157



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Fire Protection for Crest – A Critical Issue

As residents are becoming aware of the critical financial issues associated with our local fire department, solutions are being sought to keep our fire station in Crest. One solution under investigation is the possibility the East County Fire Protection District may seek a Fire Suppression Assessment as their first solution to support and maintain these valuable services. The East County Fire Protection District has not come to this conclusion easily.

Many questions and concerns have been raised. The Fire Board is making every attempt to communicate information to the residents of Crest through community meetings, bulletin boards, the Crest Sun and the Crest website (www.thecrestsun.com). As a Crest resident, it is important to understand the many complex issues in order to make informed decisions. Below is information regarding our fire department as well as responses to questions that have been raised.

East County Fire Protection District History

The East County FPD was formed on July 1, 1994, when the Bostonia and Crest Fire Protection Districts were consolidated into one district. The former districts were established in the late 1940s, and served the noncontiguous communities of Bostonia and Crest. In 1958 the Crest Fire station was built. Staffing was composed of all volunteer staff. The first paid-employee was hired in the 1960's.

The consolidated District furnishes a full range of fire and emergency services including fire suppression, rescue, code compliance, emergency medical transportation, fire prevention, and community education to 15,000 residents. Presently, assistance is provided from two stations staffed with an engine company, an ambulance, medium rescue, and a brush

engine. The District employs a total of six fire captains, six engineers, six medic firefighters, twenty reserve firefighters, one fire chief and an administrative assistant. The East County Fire Protection District is currently staffed with Firefighter / Paramedics on its engines to provide citizens with Advanced Life Support (ALS). All fire suppression personnel are trained to the level of EMT-D (defibrillator) and Combi-Tube (advanced airway) certification. Personnel maintain their skills and proficiency through regularly scheduled training.

A five member Board of Directors serving four-year terms elected by the citizens of the District governs the East County Fire Protection District. The Board of Directors meet the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 at the Crest station. Contact information for the Board of Directors can be found on the www.eastcountyfire.org/contact.html website. The District is a member of the Heartland Communications Facility Authority, and maintains full automatic aid with adjacent fire departments in addition to San Diego County and State Mutual Aid Agreements.

The Crest Fire Station #18 covers 10 square miles and services a population of approximately 3,500. Crest is predominantly residential with a few commercial buildings in the area. Station 18 borders Lakeside, San Miguel, Alpine, and the San Diego Rural Fire Protection District. Station 18 runs approximately 350 calls per year with a typical response time of 3-6 minutes.

What is an ISO rating?

Because of these services, the community has an ISO rating of "4". ISO (Insurance Service Organization) is a leading source of information about risk. ISO collects information on municipal fire-protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. ISO analyzes the relevant data using a Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). They then assign a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 represents exemplary public protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program doesn't

meet ISO's minimum criteria. Fire Stations must complete pertinent ISO survey information including the number of vehicles and staffing, proximity to their areas of support, number of first alarm responses, automatic aide agreements, training, etc.

Many insurance companies use ISO's PPC evaluations as a factor in setting the premiums they charge for property insurance; the better the community's PPC grade, the lower the premiums the insurance company would charge for property insurance in that community. While survey's vary from area to area, ISO's data on fire losses typically indicate that communities with better fire protection as evaluated by water supply, equipment, personnel, alarm and dispatch, training, and proximity to the fire station enjoy the benefits of lower insurance premiums. It is possible that our ISO rating could double from a 4 to an 8-10 if we no longer had a fire station in Crest.

A study sited from the www.iso.com/studies website showed a reduction in property insurance premiums when each of 839 rural fire departments with volunteer fire departments improved its PPC to Class 7 or an average annual savings of \$235 per household. Imagine the increase in insurance if the ISO rating increased from a 4 to 8. Not only would the insurance premiums increase, there is the possibility that you may not be able to get insurance. ISO statistics show that, on average, per \$1,000 of insured property, communities with the worst PPC ratings have losses two or more times as high as communities with the best PPC ratings.

The Budget

Funding for the East County Fire Protection district is derived from taxpayer property taxes and benefit fees of which 80% is collected in the Bostonia community. The County offers no funding or input into the districts' policies. The current level of funding has been inadequate for several years. It is important to understand that a typical station costs 1.5 million dollars to operate. The East County Fire Protection District has been

running two stations on \$1.5 million. This has been accomplished by cutting many necessary budgetary items and borrowing money.

The fire district has written grants to supplement the budget and to purchase needed equipment. These attempts have fallen short. The first task addressed by the newly elected Fire Board of Directors was to balance the budget both as a short term and long term solution.

This has not been an easy task. Grants have not covered the total cost of newly purchased equipment nor ongoing maintenance leaving the district with long term debt. Selling equipment is not a solution due to equipment depreciation and the balance owed. The District is upside down with most equipment and this type of equipment has a very limited market. The new Board even investigated the ability of returning the newly purchased rescue without success (replacing a rig which was purchased in 1985).

The current budget does not adequately cover the cost of salaries and benefits which is approximately 80% of the budget. Although firefighters in this district start at a minimum wage level and have received benefit increases and year step increases of about six cents, there is still not adequate funding to balance the budget. Based on this salary level, it is obvious why it is difficult to fill vacant positions.

Cutting staffing to stay within the current budget would not provide adequate coverage for the station. Closing the Crest Station and relying on the Bostonia station for service will most likely result in a higher ISO rating based on the fact that the station is more than five miles from Crest. Insurance rates and response time could double or triple.

While the Board of Directors are investigating revenue generating solutions by expanding the protection area, which could take many years to complete, the issue at hand is to

balance the budget for this year and next year and keep Crest Fire Protection and medical resources available.

The district has made drastic cuts as well as securing a \$161,000 gift from the county to cover this year's shortfall. Still there is a budgetary shortfall of \$150,000 through July 2007. The Friends of Crest, Crest Community Association, Kiwanis, and private citizens are doing their part to contribute to a short term solution.

After analyzing the budget, it has become apparent that without additional revenue, the budget cannot be balanced with current staffing levels. This is the reason the East County Fire Protection District is investigating a Fire Suppression Assessment. A survey has been sent to some homeowners to determine the feasibility of passing such an assessment.

Questions regarding the fire suppression Assessment.

How much would the assessment be?

The assessment would be a set fee based on each parcel and engineered by property factors such as whether the parcel is developed, is agricultural, commercial, etc. It is estimated that the cost would be \$250 a year or \$21 a month figured on a per tax unit basis as our current paramedic benefit fee is structured.

What is the duration of this assessment?

The assessment would continue as long as the fire station is in Crest.

What is your contingency plan if the assessment fails? We will begin to close down the Crest Station.

If our station were to close, why can't the district work with other county rural stations under the CDF contract? The criteria for Diane Jacob's plan were based on stations with ISO ratings of six and above and we would surely qualify.

That county money has already been distributed. Even if we were able to get a contract, it would most likely lower the standard of service, therefore affecting the ISO. The level of service would be determined by the organization running the district, not us or by the amount of service we could afford. As stated, the district has been running a 3 million dollar district with \$1.5 million for years by cutting many necessary budgetary items and borrowing money. A new organization would only be able to offer \$1.5 worth of service not the \$3 million we and our insurance companies have grown accustomed to having.

The Decision.

This decision is in the hands of the Crest Community. Are you ready to give up your fire station for \$20 a month?

Information for this article was gathered from attendance at Fire Board Meetings, Town Hall meetings, and research from the ISO.com website. Linda Hjelle

Casino Night – June 15

Mark your calendars for this fun-filled Fire Station Fundraising event!



This event is still in the planning stages so watch for additional information regarding this event.

Date: June 15
Location: Elk's Lodge
1400 E. Washington Ave
El Cajon
Time: To be Determined

- Cocktails
- Hors d'oeuvres or dinner
- Casino
- Auction

Contact: Gloria Harpeneau -447-2060

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Crest Elementary School



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

It is time to register your new Kindergartner for the 2007/2008 school year. Stop by the school and pick up the information flyer regarding your child's immunizations and required documents.



Happy 50th Birthday Crest School

Mark your calendars for Crest School's 50th anniversary which will be held May 31st at 5:00 p.m.

Crest School was originally constructed in 1956. The School was built on the hill at Suncrest to serve the La Cresta and Suncrest area. Mr. Rex T. Dahms was the first teaching principal. Check the bulletin boards and the school for additional information on this celebration.

Everyone is invited to this celebration!

Crest PTA News

Wow! Can you believe it? Spring has sprung. In just two short months our kids will be moving up a grade, and for some, moving on to a whole new world. So goes the same with PTA. A lot of us will be moving on as well, and we hope the jobs we have done here at Crest have served our children well. In the past couple months we have had great results with the fundraising we have done. Thanks for everyone's hard work and dedication.

I would like to share a most awesome experience with all of you. In February, Karin Weiss and I attended the National PTA Founder's Day. Every school in this county was there and well represented. When it came time to receive awards, there were not a lot of recipients. All awards were of monetary nature and ALL were under \$700. They were awarded based on specific criteria that must be met in the "grant writing" arena. (this is really a lot of work) I am very proud to tell you that Crest School received a \$2100 Cultural Awards Grant! Karin single-handedly wrote this grant and we should all be grateful for the time and effort she put into it. Thanks, Karin!

Some events that are planned in the next few weeks will need a lot of participation and volunteers; I hope that each of us can give a little more than maybe we have in the past. May 9th will be the "Staff Appreciation Luncheon". Let's show our teachers and staff how much we appreciate the difference they make in our kid's lives. Joanna Cartwright will be chairing this event and we will really need to count on everyone to pitch in.

May 17th is "Open House", Art Show, Ice cream Social, PTA Elections – 6:00 in Coyote Hall.

This is a great time for students to showcase their lives here at school. In addition, new PTA officers will be elected. PTA always welcomes any person wishing to serve on the board. This is a great way to show your children that you care enough to be involved.

May 31st is the "End of the Year" BBQ and also Crest School's 50 Year Anniversary! Again, lots of help and volunteers will be needed to make this really memorable. Please pass the word to everyone you know who has ever had any connections to Crest School.

In closing, I would like to remind you that schools really are the backbone of a community. We all rely on our schools to help maintain and improve the quality of life in our nation.

Where does PTA fit into all of this? By inspiring ALL of the families in our school to take part in strengthening the connections that are already in place, thereby building broad-based support and encouraging student success.

Tips for classroom volunteers

- Find out ahead of time the school's requirements and procedures for volunteers.
- Communicate with the teacher.
- Be flexible and ready to do what needs to be done.
- Don't take it personally if the teacher doesn't have time to chat.
- Remember- it is not your job to discipline kids.
- Don't gossip- imagine a child overhearing something going on in their personal life, or worse, another child hearing something very personal about another.
- If you work outside the home, you can still help.
- Have fun, and try hard to leave the "parenting" at home.

Please don't be a stranger, and try and make the next PTA meeting on April 26th.

 **Noelle Carranza**
PTA President



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OUR BACKYARD

By Christina Seebold

There is a welcome bit of fabulous news in our backyard!

Thanks to the hard work of Crest resident, Michael Beck, and all his support crew at Endangered Habitats League, we are one step closer to avoiding a major development in the southern portion of Crest's open space. The Endangered Habitats Conservancy just closed escrow on four of the parcels in the project formerly known as the Villas at Singing Hills. These 316 acres had been slated for the bulk of the home sites in the proposed development.

For those of you familiar with this open space, the preserved parcels are east, southeast of the Moorman properties, including some of the area around the point known as Skeleton Flats - bordered on the south by the old Sloan Canyon sand plant, and also the Faucetta parcel to the northwest, which includes a large section of the old grade. The purchase received funding from the State Wildlife Conservation Board, and the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. It will be preserved and managed by the Endangered Habitats Conservancy for its biological resources, and is an important part of the linkage in the MSCP from the Sweetwater area to Lakeside. These parcels will remain open for low impact use. No additional trails or "improvements" are planned.

THANK YOU MICHAEL AND COMPANY!
Everyone who turned out at the planning group meetings to express their feelings against the development, or made a donation to Friends of Crest, deserves a big thank you as well. You can make a difference. If you have questions, concerns, or a parcel you'd like to add to the reserve, please call Michael Beck at 846-3003.

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Crestridge Ecological Reserve



Docents needed for education program: Volunteers are needed to serve as field instructors in EDI's education programs. If you love the outdoors, are committed to sharing your love of the outdoors with children, enjoy doing hands-on projects with curious students, and want to learn more about ecology, this could be the opportunity you've been waiting for! Come be a part of changing the world in your own backyard! Ongoing time commitment is 4 hours per week (during school hours). Training will be provided.

Summer Camp: The Earth Discovery Institute and Arimaw Productions present Summer Science Camp 2007 at Crestridge Ecological Reserve. Join our talented instructors for 4 fun weeks of science-themed day camp at Crestridge Ecological Reserve. Learn fascinating scientific facts, create cool projects, and join exciting activities in this beautiful natural setting. The camp will take place from 9am-2pm as follows: June 25-29: **THE AVATAR**, (no camp week of July 2-6), July 9-13: **CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATORS**, July 16-20: **LIVING IN THE FUTURE**, July 23-27: **MADAGASCAR**.

For more information contact Cathy Chadwick at (619) 749-5767 or chadgroup@cox.net.

Are you as smart as a 4-6 Grader? As part of the educational program at Crestridge Reserve, students learn many facts about Crest. Did you know these facts about the oak trees in our area?

- A single acre of oaks can provide habitat to 10-100 million insects including wasps, weevils, spiders.
- A single tree can provide food and shelter for over 300 species.
- Animals depend on leaf litter under the oak canopy for moisture and acorns for food.
- Leaf layer also encourages growth of fungi in first few inches of soil that is essential to helping oak roots get the water they need to survive.
- Acorn Woodpeckers stuff acorns into holes
- Scrub jays gather acorns and poke them into the ground to hide them (new plants start when they forget to come back for them)
- Acorns, leaves, wood and sap are used as food by insects, birds, mammals.
- Reptiles, skunks, and toads eat insects that come for food.
- Woodrats and many birds live in oak trees. Seven varieties of hawks roost and nest in the oaks.
- Trees are natural producers of oxygen and cleansers of the air.
- Migrating birds use oak woodlands as corridors on their journeys.
- Lichens grow on oaks (fungus and alga) Fungi in the soil are critical to the health and survival of oaks. They grow on the roots and share the water they collect with the tree.

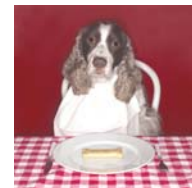
Crest Fire Station Fundraiser

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	Horse	Dog	Cinnamon Apple	Carrot	Peanut Butter	

Tax and Shipping Included in Price

Total Price:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER

Richard Sutton, Owner



MOTHER'S DAY FIESTA BREAKFAST IN THE PARK

Treat the mothers in your lives to a Fiesta Breakfast on
Sunday, May 13th from 9:00-11:00 at Nancy Jane Park

Breakfast will include:

Carne Asada
Chorizo and egg burritos
Orange Juice and coffee

Donations will be accepted for the Fire Station Fund.

Sponsored by Carl Atkinson and Friends



ANNUAL

CREST COMMUNITY
RUMMAGE SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2007
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(Mushroom, Onions, Green pepper & Olives)			
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(Pepperoni, Canadian Bacon, Sausage, Onions, Mushrooms, Green Peppers, Olives, Pineapple and Jalapeno)			
Greek Pizza	\$12.99	\$15.99	\$25.99
(Mozzarella cheese, feta cheese, gyro meat, fresh tomatoes & basil)			
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Turkey & Cheese.....	\$4.59
Italian Sub (Ham, Salami, & cheese)	\$4.59
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Roast Beef Sub	\$4.99
Corn Beef Sub	\$4.99
Meat Ball sub.....	\$4.99
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Combos

All Combos are served w/Fries & Salad

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Green Salad (Same as Garden plus Red Cabbage, Feta Cheese).....	\$5.50
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About Crest.



Excerpts from the San Diego Sun Date: Around 1930

(Don't you wish you had purchased this property with this deal?)

Subscribe to the SAN DIEGO SUN for Six Months and receive a Grant Deed to Any Cabin Site. Everything Provided for—No Extras to Pay

In addition to the one or more cabin sites that it is possible for you to secure for \$38.50, you are given, free of any additional charge, life membership in the club now under construction, free use with other Suncrest cabin site owners of the spacious parks and all their equipment. Think what it means! A wonderful back-country location for your summer cabin - on the very top of the plateau where the air is clean and wholesome. Think what it means to the wife- and the kiddies - to you, yourself - to get back every weekend, if you like (for it is only one hour's drive) to rest and health in Suncrest.

Natures Own Beauty Spot

Suncrest lies on the flat top of a mountain with an elevation of about 1850 feet. In the center of the tract, a large and beautiful park is being laid out and will be equipped with playgrounds for the kiddies, tennis courts, etc. Surrounding this park are groves containing thousands of trees. Then, the outer rim of the tract are many crest sites affording glorious views....

The Water System:

The engines and pumps for an elaborate water system have been purchased from the Sidney Mayer Company and have been installed. Water will be distributed to every section of SUNCREST. Good, cold mountain wells supply the water. This is all being furnished and paid for by the Sun Subscription Department. It costs the cabin site owners not one cent.

The Club:

C.R. Job, local contractor has been awarded the contract for club house and construction is nearing completion. A wide porch around the entire clubhouse will afford a meeting place for all Suncrest cabin site owners and their friends. A nice dance floor inside will give the younger adults (and the livelier older ones) a chance to step to music. The watchers may gather around a fireplace and be comfortable on cool evenings. **(Note: The clubhouse was located where the Crest Community Church now stands.)**

The Parks: (**Nancy Jane Park**)

Swings and slides will afford great pleasure to the youngsters. Tennis courts will invite the "net" artists to try their play against their neighbors. The horseshoe court will be placed at a safe distance from spectators - so whether you are good or not, you can get a lot of enjoyment out of that. And for golf enthusiasts, a course is now being planned which, it would seem, will become one of the most popular nine hole courses in the county. **(Note: It is unknown where they had planned to create the golf course)**

Come out Sunday- straight east through El Cajon - Turn left with the pavement, then take the first road to the right. Watch for signs after leaving El Cajon. Excellent road all the way- If you can't get up Sunday, call at the downtown office, Phone 629-79 or mail this coupon now!

A copy of this news clip can be read in its entirety at the **Crest Library**.

*Information for this article was obtained from the 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.*

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Equipping Parents

A look at Commonsensemedia.org
By Jennifer Nilles

In this era of media overload, parents have a difficult time keeping track of what children and teens are exposed to. Television, movies, Internet, music and peers all have an influence on kids today. Most parents I know, myself included don't have time to stringently survey everything available to our kids.

Commonsensemedia.org a very well developed website, offers solutions and support for parents who are finding themselves overwhelmed. Thanks to Common Sense Media founder James Steyer, a concerned father, parents have a reliable resource for up-to-date information concerning many areas of the media. The purpose of the site is to assist parents in making informed decisions about what their children should be exposed to. Visitors to the site will find it very easy to use. Upon entry to the home page there are headlines featuring new movie ratings and other newsworthy items of interest. This site invites exploration with colorful buttons and easy navigation. There are links across the top for "Reviews, Newsletter, Tips, Resources, Take Action, News and About Us." Each page has its own set of resources and informative content. For instance, on the "Reviews" page visitors can get comprehensive reviews of new movies, TV shows, video games, books and music. These reviews provide quality ratings as well as various evaluations of questionability and age appropriateness. Visitors are not required to join but a free membership comes with an emailed newsletter and the ability to post ratings along side of CSM's ratings.

Common Sense Media is a nonprofit organization that believes media should be a fun and positive experience for the whole

family. They are accomplishing this task by helping parents gain insight into the content of various media children of all ages have access to. Their website is well run and fully staffed by concerned parents and individuals with experience in child advocacy, public policy, education, media and entertainment (http://www.commonsensemedia.org/about_us/who_we_are.php). Well worth a visit and highly recommended, this website is definitely going into my bookmarks bar.

Uncle Henry's Hints

by Stan Shelton



For those times when you reach for an egg and wonder if it's boiled or not 'cause you didn't mark it, but *do* remember putting a boiled one in with the raw ones, how do you tell? Give it a spin on the counter top. Just don't let it crash onto the floor. That would be a mess in the case of a raw egg. You see, a raw egg won't spin. It quickly falls over like a drunken sailor, while a boiled egg will spin for a bit before falling over. Still can't tell? Put it in water. A hard boiled egg will float, a raw egg will sink. Still can't tell? Break it. If it's raw, fry it. If it's boiled, you already have breakfast fixed. No, I don't know anyone local that has an egg ranch, I just thought this would be useful for some folks that read *The Crest Sun*.

Occasionally, Uncle Henry sends us tips to share with our readers. We will print them as he sends them to us. Look for Uncle Henry in our future issues.



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Critters in Crest Deer

By Stanley A. Shelton

I have only heard of one sighting of a deer here in Crest, and that was from Betty Lucas, many years ago. It occurred early in the morning when she or Ray was going to work. It was walking up the street. I haven't asked any long time Crest residents if they have seen deer here, nor have I heard of any other sightings

The only deer you will see in Crest, or southern California, for that matter, is the Mule deer (family Cervidae). The other common deer in North America are the Blacktailed deer and the Whitetail deer.

The mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) is so named because of its large mule-like ears. Its closest relative is the black-tailed deer and they are often mistaken for one another. Their habitats overlap in some areas.

They can be distinguished from one another by their tail colors. The black-tailed deer's tail is mostly black, or brown fading to black, while the Mule deer's tail is white with a black tip.

The males are called bucks, the females are called does, and the young are called fawns. (I am having a problem with the noun "doe" plural: "does" and the verb "does". I have to remember what I am reading and writing about!)

Mule deer can weigh between 125 and 330 pounds. The males are larger than the females. They reach reproductive maturity at two years of age and can have between one and four fawns per year, with the average being two. First year does usually only have one fawn. They are prolific, but not quite like the local (cotton tail) rabbits. They mate in late November to early December. This is called the "rut". Gestation is between 195 and 212 days (6 ½ to 7 months).

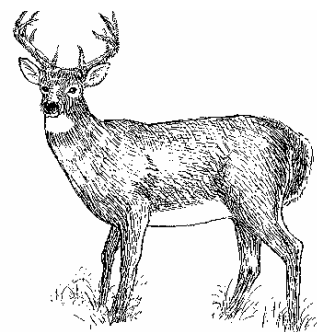
Their diet is quite varied. They will eat just about anything green, including weeds and reachable green leaves in trees, plus their twigs. They also eat grasses, vines, mushrooms, mistletoe and ferns. They can eat carefully enough to even eat young cactus leaves and cactus apples without getting stuck by thorns, or not enough to bother them.

Years ago, during a trip to the Wild Animal Park near Escondido, we were on that train that goes around the perimeter of the park and the guide pointed out a mule deer on the other side of the fence. It stood as if a statue, trying to not be noticed. The tour guide told us that the local mule deer would routinely jump over the perimeter fence to feed on the free food put out for the animals in the Wild Animal Park. The perimeter fences at the Wild Animal Park are at least eight feet tall, as I recall.

Their size and weight make them a hazard on rural roads. If you hit one on a road, highway or freeway where the speed limit is 35 or more miles per hour, chances are, your vehicle will be severely damaged or totaled, and you can't take the "road kill" home with you, legally (or so I have heard.) So be cautious when driving in deer country, they don't always cross at those Deer Crossing signs.

Please let the editor know if you've seen any deer here in Crest. I would like to hear about the sighting(s).

This drawing is of a white tail deer. Courtesy Robert Savannah, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.





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East County Fire Protection District

I am so thankful for the community that I have been planted into. The Spaghetti Dinner, fundraiser was phenomenal, earning over \$6,500. This amount together with the private donations of 61 Crest families, we are past the \$20,000 mark. I am looking forward to our upcoming fund raisers and know we will easily hit the goal we have set before us. I cannot express the gratitude felt by the ECFPD. The progress our community has made in a few short months is overwhelming.

To think about the challenges we have faced in five short years and how we have come through!! What a testament that is to our community and its citizen's ability to pull together and overcome. Now that the Fire Suppression Assessment amount is out for the community to ponder, I want to again extend the offer from all members of the ECFPD to attend any gathering you wish to hold in your neighborhood and speak to the issues and plans of the district. Like I said at our Town Hall Meeting, "Crest will have to carry this vote and it will only be won street by street!"

Thanks again for all of your effort!!

Dawn Hubert
Board President
ECFPD

Crest Country Celebration - Family Day June 30 South Lane Park



South Lane Park will be transformed into a country extravaganza! Bring your family as well as your neighbors and their kids; this day is for you!

- There will be tractor rides, hay rides, pony and llama rides too.
- A petting zoo and hopefully wool from Alpacas to see.

Our Famous Western Burger plates will be BBQ'ued to your taste with sodas and water. If we get generators, cotton candy and sno-cones will be available as well.

There will be horse activities as well as clinics with horse trainers for the older folks to answer those important questions.

Large animal vets will be there to get your horse caught up on shots and worming. You will need to call for a RSVP on that part so we will know how much and of what to bring.

If you want to ride on a trail ride and then tie your horse up and partake of the fun. Hi-line tying will be available.

If there is anything I have missed, you have ideas, or if you can help, call Kandhy Franklin at 444-4996 or my cell 977-1566. Please call soon so your ideas can be included in the flyers and advertisement.

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REMEMBERING OUR CREST FRIENDS

Charles "Chuck" Floto - June 18, 1916 - April 7, 2007

Chuck moved to La Mesa from North Dakota in the early 1920's and became a Crest resident in 1952. He lived to be 90 years old and 55 of those years were in Crest.

When first moving to Crest, Chuck participated in the talent shows at the Suncrest Club House. He loved music and made his living as a piano tuner.

Chuck graduated from Grossmont High School and then joined the Navy after the war began. He was stationed at Pearl Harbor starting in January of 1942. After his discharge, he met and married Barbara, his wife of 55 years. They raised their three sons in this little town and saw the many changes take place. He truly lived and loved Crest.

Contributions in Chuck's memory can be made to the American Lung Association.

Services to be announced.

Chuck's family would like to thank everyone in Crest for all the love and memories that have been given to the Floto family over the many years.

Joan "MamaJo" Robinson

MamaJo died Friday, April 13 at the age of 72 from complications of ongoing health issues. Cremation and services were held in Vermont. Her son Eric will most likely be returning to Crest along with MamaJo's ashes.

MamaJo was a long time Crest resident. After losing her trailer in the Crest 2003 fire (for the second time), MamaJo moved to Vermont with her son Eric.

MamaJo was a fun and loving character dispensing advice to all while running the fruit stand in front of the Crest Markets.

MamaJo is survived by her two sons, Eric and Jeff Robinson, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Harold J. Montgomery "Monty" 1/18/1924 - 4/20/2007

Harold Montgomery, DDS, "Monty", died 4/20/07 at Grossmont Hospital at the age of 83. Dr. Montgomery was surrounded by his four daughters when he died of pneumonia and congestive heart failure. Dr. Montgomery was a dentist in La Mesa for 25 years and a long time resident of Crest. He is survived by his daughters Jeanie Lynch of Scottsdale, Jeanette Clark of Indian Wells, Jackie Metcalf of Chula Vista and Jeri Hickman of La Mesa; and 8 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren. Monty was predeceased by his wife, Peggy Montgomery.

When he was in high school, he started as an apprentice firing a steam locomotive in Salida, Colorado. In 1942 he enlisted in the USN as a Pharmacist Mate. He attended Boot Camp Hospital Corps School at NTC. He was sent overseas to New Caledonia for Staging and then to New Heberides Esparto Santos to a MASH unit. He was discharged from active duty in 1945 and stayed in the Naval Reserve in the Dental Corps NTC. He retired from the Reserve in 1966 as a LCDR. He graduated from Creighton Dental School.

Monty cherished his outdoor activities. He was a trap shooting champion. He went duck and quail hunting in Rio Hardy, Mexico, Baja California, Canada, Colorado and Montana over a 45 yr. period. He was a member of the Project 2000 Hunting Club and NRA.

Services will be held on Friday, May 11th at 3 p.m. at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego. Contributions in Monty's memory may be made to Friends of Cats, 15587 Olde Highway 80, El Cajon, CA.

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Western Heritage Days – June 2-3

Don Halte and "Mountain Echo" Trio will be singing in El Cajon at the "Western Heritage Days" on June 2nd, Saturday. This is the 4th annual affair to raise money for the Olaf Weighorst Museum located on Rea St. (downtown El Cajon.) For two days (Sat. 6/2 & Sun. 6/3) Rea St. is blocked off for Western celebrations, demonstrations, music, food, gun fights, arts/crafts and beer gardens. Authentic western outfits are the dress of the event. Western music is played on stage by many bands during the two days. Mark your calendars for this fun-filled worthwhile event.



Crest Kiwanis

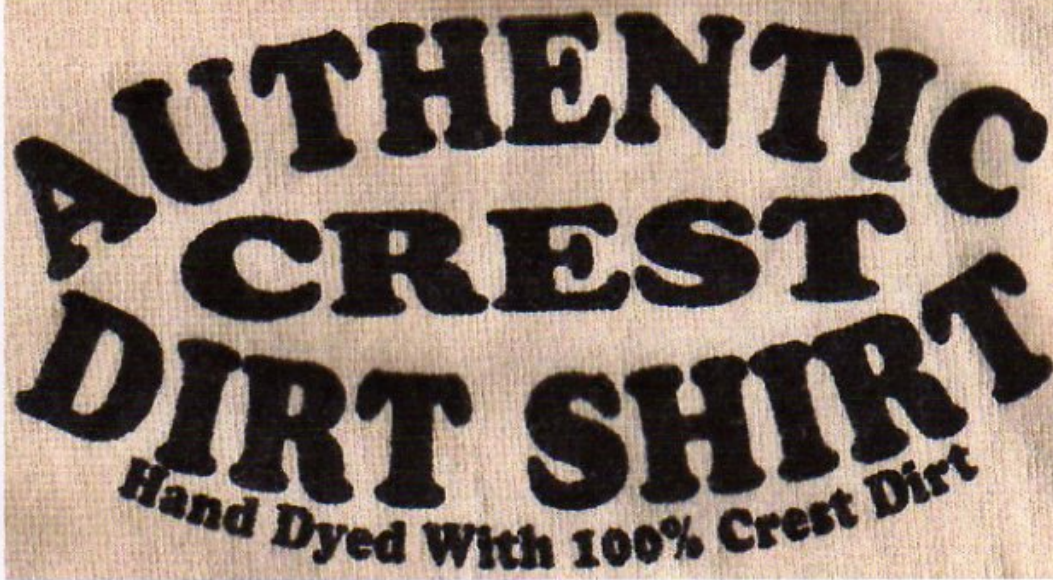
Crest Kiwanis meets on the second Saturday of every month. We welcome anyone in the community to attend. If you are interested in joining or finding out more about Crest Kiwanis please contact Andy Knutson at 619- 465-5442 or Don Halte at 619-444-4503.

We wish to thank the community of Crest for the wonderful turn out for our pancake breakfast. We were able to generate over \$1000 toward the Save our Fire Station Fund. On the same day over \$3000 worth of individual donations to Friends of Crest emergency Fire Station Project were dropped off at the pancake breakfast. It was great to see all of our friends and neighbors once again and we are pledging to do it again on May 5th. Many thanks to St. Louise for letting us use the Parish Hall.

Meals on Wheels: Mary McLellan is organizing Crest Kiwanis to deliver Meals on Wheels to those in need. At the present time we deliver about 3 to 4 times a month. It is a truly gratifying experience to meet with the many clients who are home bound. Not only are you doing a service for our community, you are also providing much needed personal contact and delicious meals to folks who are unable to go shopping and prepare meals for themselves.

Saturday May 12th Kiwanis Meeting at St. Louise parish hall at 8:00 am.
Guest Speaker Anne Kruger from the Union Tribune will speak about the paper's coverage of East County. It is a good opportunity to meet her and ask questions. Please join us.

Saturday June 9th we hope to have as our guest speaker, Adam Day from Sycuan. He will address the many programs that his tribe supports throughout the county. This would be a great opportunity to become informed about tribal principles and community programs.



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CREST COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION JULY 4TH ACTIVITIES



4th of July News: The CCA is looking forward to an exciting **61st** celebration of the 4th. Family games, music, crafts, and food! Come be a part of this special day. This year's theme is "**Got 21?**" Where did the theme come from you ask? In order to save our Fire Department, we need to pass a \$250.00 Fire Suppression Benefit Fee which is about \$21.00 a month, hence, the **Got 21** slogan. T-Shirts will be for sale with our slogan. Chairperson, Kandhy Franklin-Collins, is asking for volunteers to help with the road closures, manning the CCA and E-Crest-Rians booths, clean-up and set up for the park, and the Beer Garden with a new beer jock, Morgan Goettsch. Please call her at 444-4996, or 977-1566 or email at crestcca@yahoo.com. We are also asking for new crafters, game leaders as well as patrols to keep the trash bags changed out (great job-meet a lot of people).

Just a reminder note: This is the main fund-raiser for the CCA. They need to clear enough to pay the big bills such as property tax and the ever growing insurance policy for the new building. It is with this thought in mind that we remind folks that instead of raising money for their cause, this is the time to make a huge dent in the money needed for the CCA. In the past, 50-80 per cent of the money raised by each organization was given to the CCA, and over the years that has changed to the point that for this year only the 4 largest organizations; CCA, St. Louise, E-Crest-Rians, and Kiwanis will be serving food.

The Crest Pageant will be held at Nancy Jane on the 4th for the Little Crest Cowboy, Cowgirl, Little Miss Crest, and Crest Cowboy. The winners of each group will be determined by who raises the most change in their bucket. We need a couple of parents to step forward and volunteer. Crest CCA will provide the banners and ribbons; the participant will need to bring their own decorated bucket for donations. The monies collected will be used to pay for ribbons and prizes.

If you want to be in the parade or **Family Walk** as we call it, please follow the directions given by Glen W. and line up by 8:45 for judging to begin by 9:00. The "Walk" steps off at 9:30 led by our men in blue! Certificates and trophies will be given out to 7 different categories.

If you are a **Crafter** please be at the park to set up by 7 am. Contact Kandhy for info at 444-4996.

Congratulations to our Grand Marshall, Noelle Carranza. She has given this community and school countless hours and is at the heart of every planning meeting, committee, and event that Crest plans. We thank her for years of always being there for us.

This is also the kick off for **CCA membership**, please look for the booth, buy a t-shirt, license plate holder, beer steins, and sign up. You can also sign up for the **Free Crest Emergency Communication system.**

CCA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Membership drive going on thru July 4th. Current members, please renew! Past members, please rejoin. New members, we need you! You can pick up a form at the library.

Volunteers Needed for Club House

In need of volunteers to finish your club house. Please help on weekends so we can get this meeting place open and up and running for all of the community. Women, you can also help. Glue must be removed from the hardwood floor that was installed. If you have any questions, please call 44crest and leave a message.



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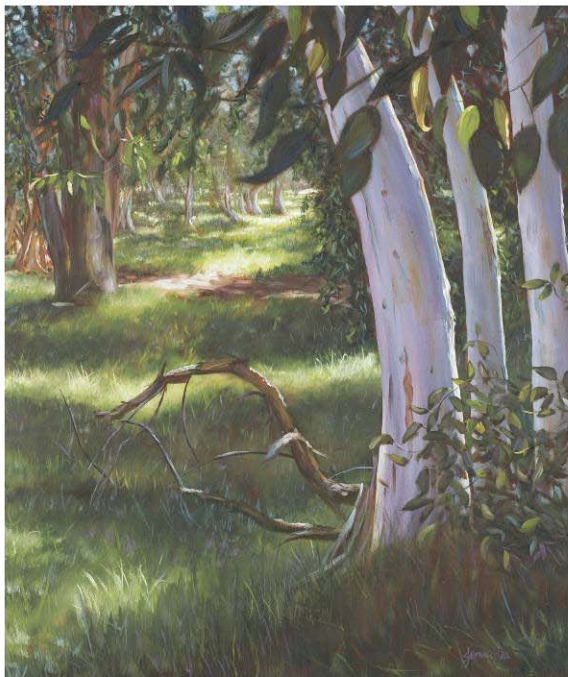
“Personality can open doors, but only character can keep them open!”

Memories in Art of South Lane Park

I started this piece in May 2005 from a photo I had that was taken before the fires. It took me a little over a year to finish it. I really wanted to capture the magnificence of standing under the huge old Eucalyptus trees. I was devastated when I found out they were cutting almost all of them down and I had a very difficult time finishing this painting because of the deep sadness I felt. As you see, I overcame and did finish. Our family can now look at this painting and remember all the wonderful adventures we had there.



The Way It Was, original oil by Jennifer Kai Nilles



Out My Back Door,
original oil by Jennifer Kai Nilles

This piece was completed in 2002 when our family lived right next to South Lane Park on Eucalyptus Dr. My husband grew up there and has very fond memories of playing in the “forrest”. He would climb trees, build forts, make rope swings, hide out, catch frogs, and build dam’s when it rained. He shared with us how there was once a California Condor nesting in the tall Eucalyptus trees and the San Diego Zoo was watching them because they are endangered. What an honor that is for our community to have that in our history. When we lived there, our children would run around out back doing the same things with their dad that he used to do.

I usually do reproductions of my work only upon special request. But given the loss of the trees in South Lane Park, I decided to make Gicles of these paintings available to Crest at an affordable price. It is my hope that you will be able to hang them in your home to enjoy for many years. These Gicles are printed on Archival Paper with Archival Inks. They should be treated as Fine Art, framed and Matted. Please call or email me for prices and info.
Jennifer Kai Nilles, the artist and Crest resident

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Friends of Crest



⚡ Emergency Project ⚡

The tax base of the Bostonia Fire Station is supporting the Crest Fire Station. Our firemen are the lowest paid crew in East County. Their level of service provides us close proximity in a medical emergency, and an ISO rating of 4 for our homeowner's insurance. Without them our rating could double, making it likely that we will be without affordable insurance. Individuals and businesses have expressed the desire to contribute to the operating costs of the Crest Fire Station.

Our goal is to meet the current budgetary shortfall of \$150,000 by June 15, 2007.

We need your help!

We are asking each household to donate \$200+ or whatever you can afford.

- Friends of Crest (FOC) will acknowledge receipt of all contributions. – Friends of Crest is a 501C (3) non-profit organization. All contributions are welcome and tax deductible.(Federal Tax ID# 33-0660248)
- 100% of the donated money will go toward the Crest Fire Station Fund.

Friends of Crest – Who We Are

FRIENDS OF CREST (FOC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the Crest community

FRIENDS OF CREST was established in 1988 to help Crest Elementary School acquire a multipurpose room. In 1995, the organization received 501(c) (3) non-profit status. In 1999 the multi-purpose room was completed and now serves the school and the larger community.

FOC has also lent its support to the preservation of open space in and around the Crest area for habitat preservation, gentle community use, and maintenance of the rural character of the community.

E-Mail: friendsofcrest@hotmail.com

*FOC will not sell or give your contact information to any other entity and will use it only to keep you informed about the current campaign.

In October 2003, wildfires ravaged the community of Crest, destroying over 280 homes. **FRIENDS OF CREST** responded to community needs by establishing a fund to receive and distribute financial contributions for fire relief and recovery efforts.

Crest is currently facing another fire related crisis. We are in danger of losing our fire station, and our ability to retain homeowner's insurance.

Please contact Gloria Harpenau at 619-447-2060 if you would like to host a fundraising event at your home. We are counting on you to make this campaign a success!

If you will help:

Friends of Crest will gratefully receive contributions for the **Crest Fire Station Fund.**

Please send your contribution with this completed form to:

Friends of Crest, 120 N. Park Ave Crest, CA 92021-4094

Name:	Phone:
Address:	Email:
City/State/Zip:	

Please indicate: Contribution Amount \$ _____

In-kind contribution (describe) _____

This is an opportunity to make a tax-deductible donation to protect your home, your life and keep insurance rates from skyrocketing. Friends of Crest has no interest in financial gain and will not use donations for 'overhead' or 'administrative' expenses