

Victoria Avenue

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Winter is losing its grip!

Officially, March 15 is the date after which we can expect no more frosts. This winter has given us wildly variable weather, and some nights as low as 26 degrees in the Greenbelt. Yes, a lot of shrubs need trimming back, but this may be the time to wait another week or two, check the long range weather forecast, and watch your shrubs for new growth before you get out your pruners and garden gloves. Don't rush the fertilizer, either, as tender new growth will pop in response to the nitrogen, and perhaps still be damaged by cold.

The white flowering Bradford pear trees blooming around town signal the end of winter. On Victoria, they are in bloom between Washington and Mary. The saucer magnolias opened their dramatic pink blooms in January, closely followed by the early flowering peach trees. The later blooming peach varieties will be opening soon. The Tabebuias near McAllister have been blooming. Redbuds, Texas mountain laurels, Chinese fringe trees are all waking up. Some of the 'Ragged Robin' roses, heavily pruned in January, already are blooming. Please take the time to drive the Avenue and enjoy the flowers.

Unlike some previous years, we got through the Valentine's Day celebrations without damage to any trees from flower-stealing thieves. That is good news, because the trees are badly damaged when flowering limbs are removed. Unfortunately, three newly planted peach trees were stolen from the median near Irving. Plans are underway to replace them.



Flowering Peach



Tabebuias



President's Report by Frank Heyming



Since our last newsletter the board of directors of Victoria Avenue Forever has been busy. We are now maintaining two gardens—the Dr. Lewis Garden at Jane and Victoria, and the Hal Snyder Garden at Harrison and Victoria Avenue. Landscape architect Jim Montgomery, one of our board members, has volunteered to make recommendations for tree removal, pruning and new plantings in the Lewis Garden. The recently planted Hal Snyder Garden had frost damage on many new plantings. We are waiting until the last frost to trim the plants back, and in some cases replant them.

A new garden is being planned for the intersection of Myrtle and Victoria. The Helen Hays Yeager Memorial Grove, donated to the City by the Yeager and Hays families, will provide a beautiful gateway landscape of orange trees, palms and roses for Victoria Avenue at Myrtle Street, where the divided roadway begins. We will keep our members informed as the plans progress.

Victoria Avenue Forever has also been a voice in defense of the character of the Avenue. We have requested that Riverside Polytechnic High School not place a lighted marquee sign at the corner of Victoria and Central, but rather place the sign at a Central Avenue location.

We have expressed our opposition to a cell tower in the median of Victoria Avenue at Maude Street.

And, we have looked at the various proposals for Overlook Parkway and how they would impact Victoria Avenue. Our conclusion after much discussion was to recommend that the Overlook Parkway Bridge connection be permanently removed from the Riverside City General Plan. Putting Overlook Parkway through would not solve any traffic problems, it would only create problems. Folks living above the connection would be saddled with increased traffic, folks living below the connection would see increased traffic, Washington Street would be seriously impacted and our beloved Victoria Avenue would certainly be seriously impacted as well as all peripheral streets through Riverside. Please support us and let your City Council know that putting Overlook Parkway through is not a good decision.

As you can see we've been quite busy. Please consider renewing your membership in Victoria Avenue Forever, and if you have a bit of time to spare, come join us. For more information you can call me at 951-743-8110.

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Kurt Gunther • Lori Yates
Marsha Loveridge

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The VAF board meets at 6:30 on the
2nd Wednesday of each month (ex-
cept August).

email address:

info@victoriaavenue.org

website: www.victoriaavenue.org

Mailing address:

PO Box 4152, Riverside, CA 92514
or call (951) 398-1032

Contributions to the Endowment Fund November 2010 - March 2011

Thank you to all who contribute to Victoria Avenue Forever in memory of, or in honor of, your loved ones. Your gift will be used to help protect and care for Riverside's living legacy, historic Victoria Avenue.

Richard & Jane Block	In honor of	Hal Snyder
Lalla Neblett	In memory of	Elizabeth Stalder & Frances Cunnison
Wm. & Anne Stalder	In memory of	Elizabeth Stalder & Frances Cunnison
Clara Gallanes	In memory of	GeorgeAnn Leonard
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Elizabeth Neblett	In memory of	Margaret Fast

T. A. & M. A. Dunagan • Leonard & Betty Dixon • Berenice Wilson
Mary Palumbo • Carole Ward • Kathleen Eckhard • Frank & Lucy Heyming

Tree Dedications

Riversiders for Rusty Bailey	In honor of	Rusty Bailey
Clinton & Geri Marr	In honor of	Bruce Marr
Clara Gallanes	In memory of	Paul Sam Pilliter
Gelsamino Family	In memory of	Dr. Eskild Reinhold
David Roger	In memory of	Priscilla Nauman
Carl & Donna Renck	In memory of	Ernie and Dag Rees

We wish to apologize to those generous donors who have not received prompt acknowledgements these past few months. We expect to be caught up within the next two to three weeks. If you have questions or concerns, you may call me, Lori Yates, at 951-687-4362.

Hal Snyder Garden Update

It has been almost a year since we began planting the Hal Snyder Garden. The new plants, all water-wise, performed beautifully for the first few months. In late summer gophers began to infiltrate the garden, and it was soon clear which plants they relished. Soon each "gourmet" plant sat in a moonscape of dirt mounds. Pest control expert Cindy Dupree began volunteering at our work days and her company, All Clear Pest Control, treated the garden. Another volunteer with similar experience followed up a few weeks later. For now, all is peaceful.

Freezing nights damaged the tops of some of the shrubs, but the trees are doing fine. The beautiful little smoke tree is unfurling deep red leaves. The green-stemmed Texas mountain laurels are showing a few buds. Shrubs unfazed by the cold include the variegated myrtles, compact red-leaved nandinas

around the bench, the slender podocarpus along the back wall. Plants that were killed will be replaced, in some cases, with hardier varieties.

The *Reinwardtia indica*, or yellow flax is a tender looking perennial. Its upright green stems are covered in soft green leaves. In spite of their vulnerable appearance they have produced bright yellow buttercup-like blossoms all winter, with minimal frost damage. The grey-leafed Germander sages proved to be gopher favorites, but the survivors are putting out lovely blue blossoms. These plants are moderately sized, require minimal care and would be good choices for home gardens.

We plan to be in the Snyder Garden on Saturday, April 12, replanting, weeding and trimming. If you can spare an hour or two for gardening with us, we would love to see you there.

This is a good opportunity for youth groups and students to earn community service hours. Everybody who enjoys an hour or two of gardening is welcome. We may be weeding, pruning shrubs, or planting trees and other perennials. No experience needed. We will teach you. We provide water and snacks, and have some gloves and tools for volunteers to use who don't have their own.

All our volunteer work days are from 9:00 a.m. to about 11:00 a.m.

April 9th - The Hal Snyder Garden, at Victoria and Harrison street. We will be replacing shrubs that didn't survive the cold weather and hungry gophers. There will be some weeding and trimming, too. Bring shovels, trowels, and clippers and garden gloves if you have them.

May 14th - The Dr. Lewis Garden again, to add new plants and tidy up the established succulents and shrubs. Bring tools as noted above.

June 11th - Tentative plans are to replace some plants in the Lorraine Small Rose Garden at Myrtle Street.

Work Days

Hope to see you!

In Memoriam

Ron Bridges, a lifelong resident of Riverside and a former member of the Victoria Avenue Forever Board of Directors, lost his long battle with cancer in January. Ron joined Susan McClintock, his longtime companion, on the board after working along with us through many plantings and work dates. Ron's tireless energy and enthusiasm, his cheery grin, and willingness to grab a shovel and work until the work was finished, were invaluable during the huge landscaping project undertaken after Victoria's divided roadway was extended from Boundary Street to La Sierra Avenue.

Ron and Susan left the board in late 2009 to focus on Ron's health. Our thoughts are with Susan as well as Ron's surviving family members. The members of the board plan to dedicate a tree on the Avenue in Ron's memory.



P. O. Box 4152
Riverside, CA 92514
(951) 398-1032

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Return Service Requested

Work Days

Saturday, April 9, 2011
Harrison & Victoria

Saturday, May 14, 2011
Jane & Victoria

Saturday, June 11, 2011
Myrtle & Victoria

Please see page 2 for details.

JOIN VICTORIA AVENUE FOREVER

(Current members will be notified when their membership expires)

Victoria Avenue Forever (VAF) is a non-profit organization founded in 1990, dedicated to the preservation and beautification of Victoria Avenue. Through fund raisers and membership support, VAF has purchased plants and trees, organized tree planting parties, planted over 600 trees, organized tree care activities, and informed our members about the history and value of the plantings on the avenue. Present goal is to take cuttings and fill in missing 'Ragged Robin' roses which frame the trees and larger plants in the medians.

To find out more about the history of Victoria Avenue, to find out how you can become a member, and to volunteer for activities, please fill in the form below and mail today. We'd love to have you join us!

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS _____

Make your tax-deductible checks payable to Victoria Avenue Forever and mail to PO Box 4152 • Riverside, CA 92514

___ \$20.00 Individual ___ \$35.00 Family ___ \$75.00 Sustaining ___ Other Amount

___ I would like to volunteer

\$ _____ for VAF Endowment Fund in honor/memory of _____

Victoria Avenue Forever is a public benefit nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation (Tax ID 33-0571694) dedicated to the preservation and beautification of Victoria Avenue. Contributions are 100% tax deductible.