

Victoria Avenue

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Honoring the heart of VAF - Hal Snyder ♦ part 2

In the July issue we described the beginnings of Victoria Avenue Forever and Hal Snyder's pivotal role as founder, the first among the original group of five, including Rosanna Scott, Pati Weir, Earl Shade and Mary Humbolt.

The determined founders recruited members and in 1992 organized as a 501(c)3 non-profit public benefit corporation, with by-laws and a Board of Directors. Dedicated supporters joined the board and served for a few years, then dropped off, to be replaced by other dedicated supporters who worked just as hard. All except Hal. He has for 20 years been the standard bearer, organizer and recruiter. All the directors took on tasks, but Hal kept many to himself - Treasurer, Newsletter editor, plant expert, teacher.

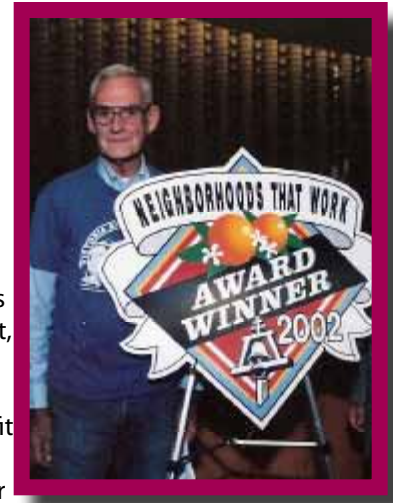
He has also been the encyclopedia of policies and procedures, as the answer to every difficult question has been, "Ask Hal".

Hal recruited potential directors carefully for their love of Victoria and dedication to its preservation and beautification. He wanted people who could work effectively with City Hall and with the public. He recruited other plant experts as well. The board always includes one or more Master Gardeners. Every one who works with Hal, learns from Hal, especially about plants and gardening.

For the past two years Hal has gradually transferred some tasks to other board members. Semi-retired CPA Jim Dudek is now the Treasurer. Plant selections and work days have been planned jointly with arborist and 2007-2010 President Dave Roger, and Master Gardener Frank Heyming.

One year ago Hal informed the Board of Directors of Victoria Avenue Forever that he would retire from the Board as of Summer, 2010. And so he has. We are left to grapple with all those tasks Hal did, and challenged to meet his high standards.

He has told us he will still be around for work days, and you may see him weeding or trimming in the Lewis Garden at Jane Street, or in his own lovely yard at Maude and Victoria.



Work Days

Saturday, September 11 • 9:00 to 11:30
Hal Snyder Garden at Harrison and Victoria
Long sleeves and gloves recommended, shovels,
buckets and rakes would be helpful.
We will be spreading mulch this workday.

Saturday, October 9 • Saturday, November 13 • Saturday, December 11

President's Report by Dave Roger

Welcome to Victoria Avenews!! This is a transitional newsletter as VAF comes to a close on its calendar year and we begin a new year with a renewed focus. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the board members. They have contributed so much this past year to insure the vitality of the organization and maintaining the vibrant beauty of the Avenue. It takes a lot of dedication and persistence to accomplish our goals. You all deserve a round of applause for this hard work. If you have not been down to the west end of the Avenue, please check out the Hal Snyder Garden at Harrison. Thanks to a great design by Jim Montgomery and hard work from all board members, we were able to complete this very attractive garden.

If you would like to be involved in Victoria Avenue Forever please contact any board member or send us an email. Thank you again for your support!

ef ef ef Contributions to the Endowment Fund May - August 2010

2009 - 2010 Officers

Dave Roger, President
Jim Dudek, Treasurer
Darlene DeMason,
Recording Secretary
Directors
Ron Bridges
Ron Burk
Kurt Gunther
Frank Heyming
Susan McClintock
Jim Montgomery
Hal Snyder
Adam Timura
Pati Weir
Lori Yates
Frank & Lynn Yost

Special Projects

Publications:
Kurt Gunther • Lori Yates
Marsha Loveridge

The VAF board meets at 6:30 on the
2nd Wednesday of each month
(except August).
email address:

info@victoriaavenue.org
website:

www.victoriaavenue.org
Mailing address:

PO Box 4152, Riverside, CA 92514
or call (951) 367-5344

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by Victoria Avenue Forever

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.

Sharon Tyrell	In memory of	Charles Constable
Mark Lawrence	In memory of	Larry Crosier
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Rosemarie Richardson	In memory of	Barbara Beal
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Richard Francisco	In memory of	Don Zimmer
Charles Beaty	In memory of	GeorgeAnn Leonard
Virginia Parsons	In memory of	GeorgeAnn Leonard
Edwin Mael	In memory of	GeorgeAnn Leonard

Annual Election of Board Members

This issue of Victoria Avenews contains the ballot for the 2010-2011 election of the Board of Directors. Please take a moment to vote. You can also use the spaces at the bottom of the page to give us your opinions on the state of the Avenue. Good or bad, your comments are extremely valuable to us, and help us plan our activities.

Would you like to get more involved in the protection and restoration of historic Victoria? Get involved for a few hours a month. Get in touch with us by email : info@victoriaavenue.org by phone: (951) 367-5344 or by mail to: PO Box 4152, Riverside, CA 92514.

The Hal Snyder Garden @ Victoria & Harrison

We reported in the last Avenews that we were awaiting the arrival of about three dozen plants for the Hal Snyder Garden. Small groups of volunteers, primarily neighbors, joined VAF Board members in the final work days. It is becoming a regular feature on the route of walkers/joggers.

The drip irrigation system is working beautifully, and all the prep work has paid off. As we sweated over the final few, the shrubs planted in April and May had already doubled in size and were blooming! The trees have put out new growth and are rapidly getting established. Of course, the weeds that formerly occupied the lot left plenty of seeds that now are sprouting, too. Pulling a few weeds and dropping them into the attractive new trash barrel is giving the exercise buffs a new twist on their workouts.



The Garden is now loaded with color. Designer Jim Montgomery created beds of yellow flowering plants, and beds of blue. The two Crepe Myrtles that flank the bench are displaying clusters of white blossoms. The purple-leaved Smoke Tree provides a lively contrast. The Garden received rave reviews at the Mayor's Night Out at Arlington High School on June 23.

The next step is the dedication of the Hal Snyder Garden, Saturday morning, November 6, 2010 from 9:00 - 11:00 in the morning.

Is Victoria looking a little more tidy? We've received a number of complaints in the past several months about the Avenue looking trashy and untrimmed. This was the result of last year's harsh budget cuts citywide. Routine tree trimming was suspended, landscape inspection and maintenance cut to the bone. Jeff Smith, Public Works' Field Operations Supervisor informed us at the July 14th Board meeting that the new budget restores the maintenance budget for Victoria, and the pepper trees were being trimmed by West Coast Arborists.

Along the Avenue

On Saturday, August 21, the new Arlington Heights Sports Park at the corner of Victoria Avenue and Van Buren Boulevard celebrated its grand opening. It is a theme park, designed to celebrate the history of the Greenbelt and Victoria Avenue as well as providing plenty of playing fields for youth baseball, foot ball and soccer. The park will be very exposed for a few years until the rows of orange trees surrounding it grow up. Unfortunately, the lights, traffic and perhaps noise will at times impact local residents. How much, remains to be seen.



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at Harrison and Victoria

Long sleeves and gloves recom-
mended, shovels, buckets and
rakes would be helpful.

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

____ \$10.00 Individual ____ \$20.00 Family
____ \$50.00 Sustaining ____ I would like to volunteer

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

Please mail to Victoria Avenue Forever • P O Box 4152 • Riverside, CA 92514



Election of Board of Directors for 2010 - 2011

As per the by-laws of Victoria Avenue Forever it is time to name the Board to guide the group for the coming year. Please indicate that you affirm the following 9 nominees and add any relevant comments. Fold the ballot in half, tape, add a stamp and mail to the address on the other side by September 4, 2010. Thank you very much.

- Darlene DeMason
- Jim Dudek
- Kurt Gunther
- Frank Heyming
- Jim Montgomery

- Adam Timura
- Lori Yates
- Frank Yost
- Lynn Yost



It would be a great help to the board if you would also take the time to share your opinions and suggestions on the following topics:

- What is your reaction to what the Renaissance Project has accomplished to make Victoria Avenue more beautiful?

- How can VAF make more people aware of our group and increase membership?

- How can VAF increase volunteer participation in our activities?

- What new projects might VAF undertake on the Avenue?

- How can the newsletter be improved?

- Any other suggestions?

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