Victoria Avenews

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An Honorable Ceremony!

The delightful new Dr. Peter M. Lewis Garden provided the setting for a dedication ceremony on September 11, 1994. Shirley Lewis accepted the plaque honoring her late husband and Lorraine Small received a plaque for the Lorraine Small Commemorative Planting. These two lovely "park" additions to Victoria Avenue are the result of much hard work by volunteers and cooperation with the City.

A number of friends and family of the honorees were there for the dedication, as well as these elected officials: Riverside Mayor Ron Loveridge, Riverside Council Members Chuck Beaty and Ameal Moore, and Riverside County Supervisor Bob Buster. (Bob presented two specimens of *Urguinia maritima,* known as squill.)

Also participating in the program was Dee Bachman, retiring Park and Recreation Director for the City of Riverside. In appreciation for his cooperative efforts, VAF presented him with a certificate for a commemorative tree.

Photo by Phil Auth

Outgoing VAF president, Rosie Francisco, also was honored with a tree.

Enjoy these new special places on our avenue!

PLANTING DAY: November 19 at 9:00 AM

Victoria and Myers

We have plenty on our plate for November 19!

Eucalyptus planting near Jane
(Trees purchased through the grant from Job's Daughters.)
A revisit to the "nose" on Van Buren

Meet at 8:45 AM at Victoria and Myers. Bring tools and gloves (marked with your name). Coffee and goodies will be provided. Maps will show you exactly where to plant and Master Gardeners will be on hand to offer guidance. The city is loaning us orange cones for safety. Bring your friends!

MEETINGS HOLD PROMISE

A Message from the President

Plans for Victoria Avenue

On October 13th I met with Terry Neilson, acting Park and Recreation Department Director, Rick Catron, Planner, and Dan Roberts, Park and Recreation person in charge of work on Victoria Avenue. Wow! What great plans are in the offing for beautifying and helping our beloved Victoria Avenue!

Removal of Dead Trees

First of all, some of the dead trees are being removed. (The dead eucalyptus near the Lewis garden that was devastated by the eucalyptus beetle will be gone soon.) Taking out dried up foliage always makes a garden look fresher.

Installing Irrigation

Secondly, the city is beginning some work on installing some badly needed irrigation. The entire strip from Van Buren to Irving will be done, including some special attention to both parts of the Van Buren "nose". We hope that eventually all the irrigation on Victoria can be brought up to good working order. It seems fruitless to plant new trees when there is not sufficient water to keep them alive.

Utilities to go Underground

The third and most exciting event, will be the undergrounding of utilities from Monroe to Harrison! Bids are going out this month for work to begin late December. What an improvement it will be! Our trees will be able to grow to their natural height.

Work on Tyler Median Delayed

We also learned that underground gas lines are holding up work in the median near Tyler. Public Works Department has been contacted for information.

Pride in Our Avenue

Our city is proud of Victoria Avenue and will do everything the budget will allow to continue its beautification. We know we have a treasure - an eight-and-a-half-mile long, linear park. Sometime in the future it will be on a par with the nationally known parks in so many of our beautiful cities. Victoria Avenue Forever is devoted to helping the city with this vital program to enhance one of our finest assets.

Marie Hempy

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TEST BLOCK

By January we hope to begin replanting the block (nearly 2 blocks) between **Washington and Madison.** The new plan calls for bringing in fill dirt and regrading. After the irrigation is in place, we will plant fresh pyracantha, trees, and roses to make this eyesore into a beautiful part of our avenue.

Watch for more news!

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Blooming Now.....

After a long, hot summer the shiny pink flowers of the floss silk tree (*Chorisia speciosa*) are a most welcome sight. Seven of these trees, planted recently by VAF, are coming into bloom in the median on either side of the intersection of Victoria Avenue and Van Buren. Native to Brazil and Argentina, the silky seed floss of this tree (a member of the kapok family) is used for stuffing pillows.

Council Plans For Victoria Avenue

Council member Alex Clifford recently met with the VAF Board of Directors to report on plans for the Avenue. As a result of Mr. Clifford's efforts, the City Council in June, 1993 approved a 6-year phased refurbishment plan for the Avenue. Funding for this plan was included in the Capital Improvements Program of the Park and Recreation Department budget.

Planning work on the McAllister to Tyler section of this ambitious program of improvements has been completed, and installation of the irrigation system and landscaping should begin soon.

At budget time this year, Council member Clifford reminded his colleagues of their previous approval of this project and made sure that the remaining five phases from Tyler to La Sierra Avenue were included in the Capital Improvements Program for Fiscal Years 1993-94 to 1998-99 and to approve funding in this year's budget of the second phase (Tyler to Stewart)

It is hoped that state or federal grants will become available to fund the four remaining phases from Stewart to La Sierra Avenue. Should grant money not be forthcoming, these phases will be funded in the General Fund.

It is gratifying to know that a plan has been developed, and is being implemented, to tie in visually the newer sections of the Avenue with the original historic landscape. Council member Clifford is to be commended for his interest and labors on behalf of Victoria Avenue. Thanks!

City Manager Involved

Thanks to a proposal by Council member Laura Pearson, we have met with John Holmes, City Manager, to discuss the future of Victoria Avenue. We found it stimulating and helpful, and hope this association between the city and VAF will help accomplish the goals we have for the Avenue.

Ideas Needed for Festival

The **Sunkist Orange Blossom Festival** will be a spectacular event happening in Riverside on April 22 & 23, 1995. How shall Victoria Avenue Forever be part of the fun?

Here are some ideas:

- Making pot pourri packages from Victoria Avenue plants and selling them
- Decorating the Avenue
- Conducting trolley tours
- Having a booth (Sell T-shirts, sign people up for commemorative trees, memberships, etc.)

Share your suggestions with us and let us know how you would like to participate.

Thanks to Job's Daughters!

Nineteen eucalyptus trees are to be planted on both sides of Victoria Avenue near Jane Street on November 19. These trees have been purchased with grant money ($395.00) from the Tree Fund of the International Order of Job's Daughters, administered through California ReLeaf.

The Riverside organization of Job's Daughters has also given many volunteer hours helping with VAF projects. We are so grateful for the involvement of these fine young women and their support for Victoria Avenue and the beautification of Riverside.

VICTORIA AVENUE FOREVER
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JOIN VICTORIA AVENUE FOREVER

Victoria Avenue Forever (VAF) is a non-profit organization founded in 1990, dedicated to the preservation and beautification of Victoria Avenue. Through fundraisers and membership support, VAF has purchased plants and trees, organized tree planting parties, planted over 150 trees, organized tree care activities, and informed our members about the history and value of the plantings on the avenue.

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 checks payable to **Victoria Avenue Forever**
and mail to **6475 Victoria Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506**

____ $10.00 Individual ____ Other Donation

____ $20.00 Family ____ Yes, I would like to volunteer

____ $50.00 Sustaining

Thanks to Shelter West Realty.....

.....for the use of their computer, printer, and paper in preparing this newsletter.

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