

Victoria Avenews

Published by Victoria Avenue Forever

Volume 13 No. 4 August 2005



A Brief Summer Issue and a Ballot

At its regular meeting on July 5, the VAF Board discussed with Ron Smith, the city Urban Forester, its concerns with the state of the 'Ragged Robin' roses in the median of Victoria. It was patently obvious to many of the members that the roses were stressed. A VAF member had also called to report that the oranges in the north side of Victoria at Washington were not being irrigated.

A number of the board members are experienced gardeners, and as such, are accustomed to watching for

changes, often subtle, in the appearance of their plants. They had noticed from their cars that the roses did not look "quite right". With temperatures rising, improper or insufficient irrigation was the first thing to leap to mind as a possible culprit.

Ron Smith set up a meeting with the superintendent of Azteca, the firm hired by the city to maintain Victoria Avenue, and told him to check the irrigation immediately, not only of the roses, but also of the median trees. Right away, Azteca crews were seen working on the drip lines in the median. Almost immediately, the roses began to look somewhat better, even if minimally so. Maybe most will come back.

Hey, It's the Water, Guys!

As every homeowner knows, irrigation systems need constant monitoring, especially drip lines. The emitters can clog up, water pressure may not be sufficient to reach the entire length of the line, animals may chew through the lines or the lines may have sprung leaks for no apparent

reason. In addition, the lines may not be close

enough to the root zone of the roses or, in the case of the trees, the lines may not be placed at the drip line. The Azteca crews must walk each and every block for its entire length at regular intervals to make sure that the water is getting where it should and not being wasted. If you note problems call Hai Snyder at 684-0596 or Lori Yates at 687-4362. Azteca must live up to its contract or they will lose it!

School Planned on Victoria



Riverside Unified School District plans to build a new elementary school on the vacant parcel at Victoria Avenue and Irving Street. The 9.6 acre campus will replace the present Hawthorne Elementary School on Indiana, which is too small for the current enrollment. In addition, the close proximity of the BNSF railroad tracks—75 feet from occupied classrooms—present safety hazards, as do emissions from the nearby 91 freeway.

The district presented its plans to the Planning Commission in July, though state law gives that body only an advisory role. The district has committed to encouraging auto traffic, as much as possible, to use Irving rather than Victoria, as well as to planting three rows of orange trees along Victoria to screen the school. At a subsequent meeting with Dr. Kirk Lewis, assistant superintendent for operations, and representatives of the firm drawing up the site plan, several VAF board members suggested placing the playing fields on the Victoria side of the property rather than on the north side.

Nursery to Homes

On September 8, 2005, the Planning Commission will review a tentative tract map to subdivide the 28.92 acres bounded by Victoria and Cleveland Avenues between Gratton and Monroe Streets currently occupied by a commercial nursery. Each of the proposed 6 lots will be roughly 5 acres, as required by Prop R. VAF will monitor the application as it moves through the process. Primary concerns are the planting of three rows of orange trees along the Victoria Avenue frontage, protection of the existing parkway trees during construction, and the placement and design of any driveways onto Victoria.

Victoria Avenue Forever Official Ballot

2005 - 2006 Board of Directors

- _____ Jenny Humphreys, President
- _____ Hal Snyder, Treasurer
- _____ Darlene DeMason, Secretary
- _____ Sylvia Broadbent
- _____ Ron Burk
- _____ Dan Hays
- _____ Marie Hempy
- _____ Gerry Marr
- _____ Don Munnecke
- _____ Dave Roger
- _____ Mark Schroeder
- _____ Rosanna Scott
- _____ Betty Spriggs
- _____ Lori Yates



Victoria Avenue - Since 1892

_____ I approve the slate of officers and directors for VAF 2005 -2006

Suggestions for the organization _____

Please fold ballot over, tape, add a stamp and mail to address on the other side by September 1, 2005 Thank you.




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Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Riverside, CA
 Permit # 193

Return Service Requested

Victoria Avenews
 is published 4 - 6 times a year by
 Victoria Avenue Forever
 at 6475 Victoria Avenue
 Riverside, CA 92506



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**

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

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

Please mail to Victoria Avenue Forever • 6475 Victoria Avenue • Riverside, CA 92506