



Victoria Avenue Forever



Victoria AveNews

February, 2019

Volume 27—No. 1

What is happening in the fight against huanglongbing to protect our beloved citrus?—Beth Grafton-Cardwell and Monique Rivera, Department of Entomology, UC Riverside

In 2008, a tiny insect called the Asian citrus psyllid found its way to Southern California. Its arrival was of noted importance because it transmits a deadly disease to citrus. By 2012, it had established itself throughout that region because of the abundance of Southern California’s beloved residential citrus. By no coincidence, huanglongbing (or citrus greening) was first found in residential citrus. It is suspected that the disease arrived through the grafting of infected citrus material imported illegally from Asia. Currently, more than 1000 trees have been removed from residences in Riverside, Orange and Los Angeles Counties. There have only been three infected trees in Riverside county. However, our ability to detect disease is delayed and thus, it is very likely there are many more infected trees currently in Riverside.

Efforts to battle this disease are heavily supported by the \$2 billion/year California citrus industry, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), county agencies and the general public. CDFA conducts surveys of residential and commercial citrus using molecular methods. If the disease is detected in sampled psyllids, the CDFA will treat trees in the area of the find with insecticides and search even more closely to find the plant source. If a plant is confirmed HLB-positive, the CDFA will legally remove the tree from the property and destroy it. The state (CDFA) assists—[to pg 4](#)



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Roundabouts are dead: the continuing saga of the Washington Intersection—by Darleen DeMason

The last *Victoria AveNews* was almost exclusively devoted to a proposal for a “series of roundabouts” on Victoria Avenue with a focus on the Washington intersection that would be presented to the City of Riverside November Transportation Committee Meeting. At that time we asked for support from the community to oppose the roundabout concept at or before the meeting. This article is a follow-up to describe the events leading up to the Transportation Committee Meeting, the events that took place at the Meeting and the subsequent interactions we have had with the City up to the present. The short sheet is that we saved Victoria Avenue and the roundabouts are “dead.”

[Leading up to the Meeting](#) – The *VAF* Board decided at its October meeting to dedicate the fall newsletter to this issue and rush it out to the membership. The Legislative Committee, which included Board members Bill Bailey, Raul Jordan, Lori Yates and me, along with other *VAF* members, Mary Humboldt, Dan Straus and Bill Wilkman, discussed the points to be made in the article, its layout, wording and distribution. The newsletter was sent by email to a broad group of organizations in town, in addition to the normal list—[cont on pg 5](#)

Letter from the Editor

As you can see from this newsletter, the VAF Board has been working very hard to accomplish our mission goals of beautification of, education about and advocacy for Victoria Avenue. All our members should have received a membership renewal packet in the mail recently. Please respond promptly, because the majority of our income comes from membership renewals. And second and third renewal notices are costly in terms of time and money.

Please note that the Commemorative Tree price has gone up to \$200 each. This increase is necessary for two basic reasons: (1) trees cost more now than they used to, and (2) the survival rate has declined significantly so that many trees need to be replanted, one or more times before we have an established tree. We are losing more trees now due to drought, excessive heat and gophers!

Some new activities are coming up in the future. First, we plan to hire another gardener to help us maintain the Lewis and Snyder Gardens. This gardener will do the continuous maintenance of regularly checking the irrigation systems, weeding and removing debris. Please consult our website for documents describing the job description, hiring

requirements and processes. You can find all the information under the dropdown menu called “RFQ”.

Second, after many years, we are planning to have VAF t-shirts with a new color design. We will only print a few initially and sell them at cost. After the first 50 sell, we will assess their popularity before making future plans. We want make sure we do not lose any money on this venture. The new t-shirt design is shown above. We will provide all our members the opportunity to obtain a t-shirt if they wish to have one.

Finally, please see our volunteer calendar [on page 8](#) and consider helping us with the most important goal of our organization – beautifying Victoria Avenue. There are still four events planned. Thank you for your continued support!



“Smile” on Victoria Avenue When You Shop Online – Doug Whitley

If you are like us, you make many online purchases. Like us, many of those purchases come from Amazon. Wouldn’t it be great if you could contribute to your favorite charity, without any cost to yourself, just by shopping online at Amazon? Well that is exactly what you can do and we will show you how. And **NOW** your favorite charity can be *Victoria Avenue Forever*...

First, you have to select your charity. To do so, sign-in not at “amazon.com” as per normal, but instead go to “smile.amazon.com”. The “smile...” site is the same site as “amazon.com”, has the same merchandise at the same prices but has the extra awareness that your purchases will contribute to your charity. So complete the sign-in page using your normal Amazon account information. Once you click on the yellow “Sign in” button you’ll be taken to the “Smile” home page. It looks exactly like the standard Amazon home page except that in the upper left corner it reminds you that it is Amazon “Smile”! In its normal place on the menu bar (near the upper right corner) is the “Hello *User*” greeting, underneath of which is “Account & Lists”. Click on “Accounts & Lists” and a drop down list appears. This is the same list that appears on the standard Amazon home page and has all the exact same items. Except one. The “Smile” home page has one extra item in the right column (the column labeled “Your Account”) about 1/3rd of the way down. Click on this extra item, which is labeled “Your AmazonSmile” and you’ll be shown a new page. This page, in the right column, shows your current charity if any, plus a grey “Change chari-

ty” button. To change your charity to “*Victoria Avenue Forever*” click the grey “Change charity” button. On the new page that appears, enter “*Victoria Avenue Forever*” in the search box labeled “Or pick your own charitable organization:”. Then, click on the “Search” button. If all goes well, the search will respond with one item only, which you can then pick by clicking on the yellow “Select” button on the right side of the charity name. You’ll then be taken back to the screen that shows your new charity and not incidentally, some statistics about your contributions. You’ll be able to see here exactly how much you have contributed.

So hereinafter you must always go to “smile.amazon.com” to shop, not to “amazon.com”. As noted, it is of course the same company, the same site, has all your account information and past purchases, etc. You will just shop at “smile.amazon.com”. If you shop at “amazon.com” you won’t be making any charity contributions.

Some frequently asked questions:

Q: How much gets contributed to my charity?

A: 0.5% of everything you purchase. This does NOT cost you extra. It is paid by Amazon.

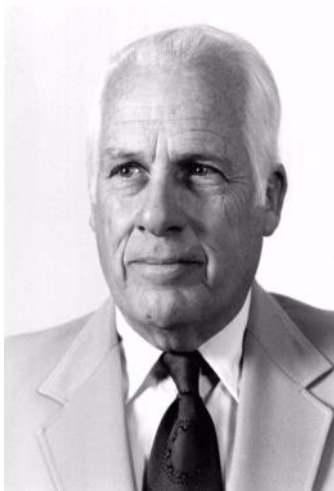
Q: Can I deduct my charity contributions at “smile.amazon.com”?

A: Because Amazon makes the contribution, not you, you have no contribution to deduct. You are not [—cont on pg 3](#)



Donald Edwin Munnecke
March 30, 1920 – October 3, 2018

VAF lost a former Board member at the end of last year. Don Munnecke was born in St. Paul, Minnesota and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Minnesota in 1942. That same year he married Elaine Miller and joined the US Army. He served in the Army from 1942-1946 and attained the rank of Captain while serving in the Philippines. Upon his return to civilian life he returned to the University of Minnesota and obtained an MS and then a PhD in 1950. He began his scientific career as an Instructor and Junior Plant Pathologist at UCLA in 1951. In 1961 he transferred to UC Riverside to help found a new Plant Pathology Department and taught the first course in plant pathology to UCR students. He advanced to the rank of Full Professor and continued on the faculty until his retirement in 1985.



He published 150 papers on the fate of fungicides after application to soil, including chemical form, and influence of other organisms. He earned many academic awards including, being named a Guggenheim Fellow, a Senior Fulbright Researcher, and a Fellow of the American Phytopathological Society (APS). He was also the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the APS Pacific Division.

Don and Elaine had four children: Dianne, Douglas, Janet and Thomas. Don and his wife enjoyed travelling and Don also loved woodworking as a hobby and made many beautiful pieces of furniture. Don joined the VAF Board in 2000 and was an active member until Elaine died in 2005. An article about her death was published in Victoria AveNews in the summer 2005 (Volume 13, No. 3). Don is survived by three of his four children, nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Amazon Smile—from pg 2

making the contribution, Amazon makes it on your behalf.

Q: Can I shop at “smile.amazon.com” via an app on my notepad or mobile device? I use a special app for amazon purchases.

A: Currently no app has been created so that you can shop at “smile.amazon.com” via your mobile device. You’ll have to use your laptop or desktop to shop at “smile...”.

Q: Can I use Amazon Prime on “Smile...”?

A: Yes, Amazon Prime functions in exactly the same way as on “Amazon...”.

Using “Smile” won’t bring a torrent of money winging its way to *Victoria Avenue Forever*. Since Amazon contributes only .5%, this means that \$5,000 in purchases sends only \$25.00 to the organization. But little contributions, if they are many and if they extend over time, could be very helpful to us.

Finally, if you have any problems assigning *Victoria Avenue Forever* as your charity, get in touch with us via phone at 951-286-1036 or via email at victoriaaveforever@gmail.com.



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Victoria AveNews is published quarterly each year.

The VAF Board meets at 6:30 PM

on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (except August)

www.victoriaavenueforever.org

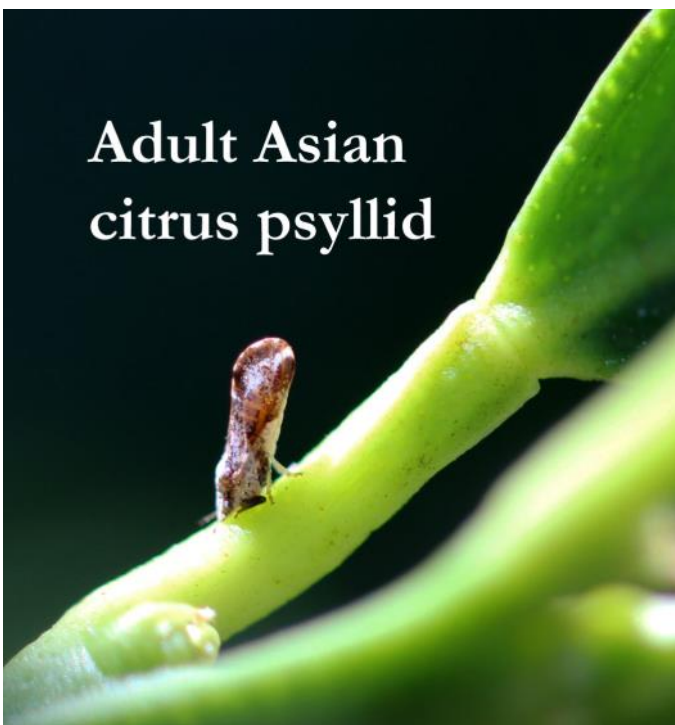
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Huanglongbing—from pg 1

in keeping the disease out of commercial citrus by treating residential areas around citrus orchards to help reduce psyllid movement into commercial citrus. In commercial citrus, the citrus growers work together to apply treatments to their orchards to reduce psyllid populations. These efforts are slowing the spread of the disease compared to other regions of the world. In Florida, the disease spread throughout the state in about 3 years and now every orchard has some trees with HLB. Florida citrus acreage has been reduced by 50% and the quality of fruit and productivity of the remaining trees have declined in many areas because of HLB. Residential citrus has all but disappeared from the Florida landscape. In California, every day that psyllid numbers are reduced through treatments and HLB is reduced by infected-tree removals buys time for the worldwide research community to develop a cure for the disease and hopefully, preserve California's iconic backyard citrus that we all love and enjoy.



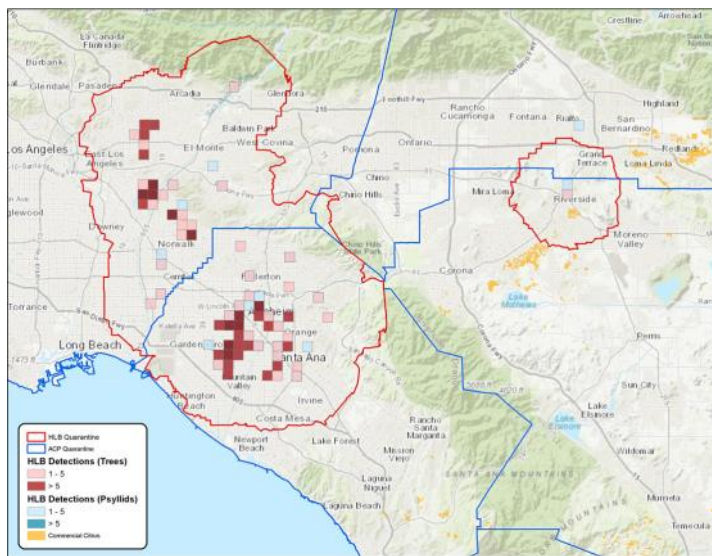
Adult Asian citrus psyllid

What types of research approaches are going on?

The disease has been an unprecedented challenge to the research community because the bacterium cannot be grown in petri dishes in the laboratory and so, normal laboratory techniques are unusable. Furthermore, it has been difficult to find citrus relatives with natural resistance to HLB to use in traditional breeding programs; this has led to the study of genetic engineering for citrus. The genetic manipulation of citrus could come in many forms such as inserting, deleting or modifying genes in the tree. It may use foreign DNA (spinach genes) or citrus' own genes. However, using this method, all citrus would need to be replanted with the new engineered tree varieties. Other strategies include using the

citrus tristeza virus (a common, mostly mild citrus virus in California), as a carrier for HLB resistance and in this case, the virus could be inserted in existing plantings of trees. Other scientists are working on modifying the psyllid so that it can't transmit the disease and then, releasing it to displace the psyllids that are able to transmit the disease. The Science for Citrus Health website (<https://ucanr.edu/sites/scienceforcitrushealth/>) was created to showcase these citrus research strategies in layman's terms.

What research is being done at the University of California? The official molecular method to detect the disease requires that the citrus leaf sample contains the bacterium and the bacterium might not always be in the leaf chosen. The bacteria start out in a small area where the psyllid feeds and infects the tree from that point. It can take several years for the bacteria to spread throughout the tree and thus, detection is inefficient and highly delayed. One of the most important research areas for California, is finding infected trees early in their infection so the infected trees do not have the chance to infect more psyllids. A number of labs at UC Davis (UCD) and UC Riverside (UCR) are studying what we term 'Early Detection Techniques' or EDTs. Drs. Caroline Roper and Philippe Rolshausen (UCR) and Johan Leveau (UCD) are studying the microbes normally found on leaves, twigs and roots of citrus. These microbial communities change when a tree becomes sick with a disease and this change could be used as a detection tool. Dr. Wenbo Ma (UCR) has developed a technique to measure 'effector' molecules that are produced by the bacteria, released into the sap and quickly move throughout the tree. Dr. Cristina Davis (UCD) can measure changes in the volatiles that sick trees produce and Dr. Carolyn Slupsky (UCD) can measure changes in the metabolism of the tree. The challenge is developing a technique that is cost effective and gives rapid results so that thousands of trees can be screened. —*cont. on pg 6.*



Locations where HLB-infected citrus or psyllids have been found in Southern California and the quarantines around those areas.

[Roundabouts—from pg 1](#)

recipients. We heard back from the Old Riverside Foundation, the Riverside Woman's Club, Neighborhoods Better Together (NBT) and the Riverside Neighborhood Partnership (RNP) who wanted to support our stance against roundabouts on Victoria Avenue. NBT and RNP invited us to make presentations to them. The Wood Street Association also called for a presentation but the timing was not adequate. I made the presentation to NBT and Sally and I presented at the RNP meeting and passed out hard copies of the newsletter. We also received support from the Casa Blanca neighborhood through Paul Chavez. Subsequent to the presentations, a group called Residents for Responsible Representation (RRR) placed information about the controversy on their Facebook page and I posted it on our Facebook page. The response to these social media posts was like a firestorm racing across the City. We had more than 1000 views almost immediately, with many comments and shares. This was a response at least five times greater than any other single posting on our page in its entire history. The vast majority of responses supported our stance. It was so satisfying to see such vigorous support for Victoria Avenue.

In the meantime, the *VAF* Board had been considering traffic mitigation alternatives that would have minimal impact on the historic design of Victoria Avenue. Former Board member, Lanny Coon was very familiar with the problems at that intersection and had commented on the fact that the lane arrangements for left, through and right-hand turn lanes facilitated morning traffic coming into the City from Washington neighborhoods and Woodcrest, but did not do so for return traffic in the afternoon commute. Bill Bailey went out on several occasions to observe the traffic at the Washington intersection in the mornings and afternoons. He also drove in it to experience the problems. Based on his observations and experiences, he suggested a lane addition on Washington to accommodate right-hand turn traffic coming from outbound areas travelling on Victoria Avenue. He clearly identified that the delays in the afternoon rush hour traffic were being caused by competition for a single lane by traffic coming in three directions (through traffic, right-hand turn from inbound on Victoria Avenue and left-hand from outbound on Victoria Avenue). Since the greatest number of cars was making a right-hand turn, a dedicated lane to eliminate them from the competition would alleviate traffic delays significantly. He also saw that the right-of-way area on Washington was adequate to accommodate the new lane.

The *VAF* Legislative Committee met again before the Transportation Committee Meeting and planned the signs, who would go to the meeting, the points to be made in our talks, where we would sit and who would welcome citizens and help them with questions and assurances during the check in process at the meeting.

[Transportation Committee Meeting](#) – The Transportation Committee is a subcommittee of the City Council that

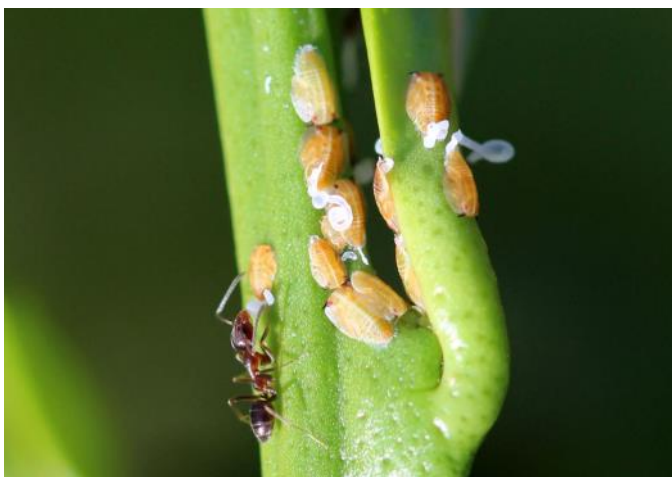
meets monthly. It is chaired by Councilman Soubirous. Councilman Mac Arthur is the Vice-Chair and Councilman Melendrez is the third member. There were two issues on the agenda for the November 8th meeting: (1) Traffic Control Alternatives at the Victoria Ave/Washington Intersection and (2) Deployment of Shared Active Transportation Services and Permitting/Fee Program Update (i.e. Bird scooters). At least 38 citizens attended the meeting. Councilman Soubirous convened the meeting at 1PM and introduced Traffic Engineer, Nathan Mustafa who gave his oral report with a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Discussion of Roundabouts along Victoria Avenue.” As his title indicated the core of the report centered on the benefit of roundabouts and his design of a single lane roundabout at Washington St. Chair Soubirous invited 3 minute oral presentations from citizens in response to the report. Twenty-five citizens gave oral responses, only 2 of which were in support of the roundabout concept. We thank three members of the Old Riverside Foundation who spoke to the historic significance of Victoria Avenue and the value of its National Historic Designation to our City. Bill Bailey discussed his suggestion for a new lane on Washington. Mary Humboldt noted that Prop R and Measure C require the City to protect Victoria Avenue and the greenbelt from heavy traffic. And Dave Barnhart, retired traffic engineer, pointed out flaws in the roundabout design. A wide range of topics in support of Victoria Avenue were brought up by other speakers. At this point, each of the Councilmen summed up their opinions on the report and the speakers comments. Vice-Chair Mac Arthur moved to (1) receive and file the report on traffic control alternatives at the intersection of Victoria Avenue and Washington Street; (2) direct staff to conduct community outreach on other traffic control alternatives acknowledging that there is no community support for roundabouts; and (3) forward a discussion of alternative solutions to the City Council at a workshop within 90 days. Motion carried unanimously and we had won! (Minutes, reports and a video of this Transportation Committee Meeting on November 8th are available on the—[cont pg 7](#)



Victory Pose outside the Council Chambers after the Meeting, Left to Right: Bill Bailey, Sally Mazzetti, Darleen DeMason, Raul Jordan, Bill Wilkman, Marilyn Harris, Frank Yost and Lori Yates.

Huanglongbing—from pg 4

What can you do to help? In southern California, where the psyllid is well established and it is difficult to treat residences with pesticides, a tiny wasp called *Tamarixia* that attacks the psyllid has been released (project led by Dr. Mark Hoddle (UCR)). The parasite lays its eggs on the psyllid nymphs and its young feed on the psyllids killing them and this helps to reduce psyllid numbers. To maximize the impact of *Tamarixia*, it is very important to control ants in your yard, because they protect psyllids from natural enemies. However, even a few psyllids can spread the disease, so natural enemies are not as effective as insecticides in reducing disease spread. You can apply an insecticide called 'Bayer Advanced Fruit, Citrus and Vegetable Insect Control' to the soil at the base of your citrus in the fall months to reduce psyllids. You could also hire a landscape company to apply insecticides to the foliage of the tree to protect it. It is very important for homeowners to be aware of where the disease is currently found (see map on page 4 and <http://ucanr.edu/acp/> for a map of the disease) and to be prepared to respond (UCIPM pest note: <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74155.html>). If asked, please support efforts by CDFA to treat for psyllids and test your trees for disease. If infected trees have been found and removed from your neighborhood, consider removing all your citrus trees, even if they haven't yet tested positive for the disease, because they may already be infected. Once a cure for the disease is found, then citrus could be safely replanted. Again, all of these measures are being undertaken to protect commercial citrus and the iconic California landscape and buy time for a cure for the disease.



Above—Ants tend citrus psyllid nymphs, protecting them from natural enemies in order to harvest their honeydew. Nymphs are yellowish with red eyes. They produce white waxy tubules.

Contributions

Mid-October - January 2019

Thank you to all who contributed to *Victoria Avenue Forever*. Your gifts will be used to help protect and care for Riverside's living legacy – Victoria Avenue.

General Contributions and for trees/upkeep

James & Rosalie Anderson, Donald Irving, Sally Johnson, Douglas MacLaughlin, Mark & Nancy Parrish, Jenny Rechel, Margaret Robinson, Gerald Saks, Bruce & Roberta Spieler, Adam Timura, James & Caroline Ward

Endowment Fund

Alan & Kathie Eckard, Richard Messer

Lorraine Small Garden

Sally Johnson

Save the Eucalypts

William Bailey, Jr

Memorial Contributions

Priscilla Doshier	In Memory of Dub Dosier
Susan McClintock	In Memory of Judy Cochran Barker
Joan Miller	In Memory of Dr. Joe Hubbard
Joan Miller	In Memory of Dr. Ray Muller
Joan Miller	In Memory of Mrs. Bill "Willie" Richman
Rosemarie Richardson	In Memory of Dr. Raymond Richardson

Commemorative Tree Donations

Hunt & Debbie Barnett	In Memory of Marge Souder
Hunt & Debbie Barnett	In Memory of David Moore
Geraldine Davidson	In Memory of Joan Hall
David Glidden & Susan Carpenter	In Memory of Hal Snyder
Joan Miller	In Memory of John Miller
Jane Niederkorn (2)	In Honor of Susan & Lane Cash, 50 th Anniversary
RCB and Sons, Inc.	In Memory of David Moore

****Commemorative Trees are now \$200 each!***

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City website (<https://riversideca.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=643500&GUID=BBFFAC4C-F654-475B-A77E-E9FC8F0ABCAA&Options=info&Search=>).

More than 30 e-mails, letters and petitions were sent to the City Clerk before the meeting. The Press Enterprise covered the meeting on November 12th in the Local section.

City Interactions since the Meeting – In December Nathan Mustafa met with us in City Hall. Ten citizens attended from VAF and the Casa Blanca community. He asked for our concerns about the intersection in question, or about Victoria Avenue in general. Our concerns included: school traffic and the lack of pooled transportation (i.e. school buses); Overlook Parkway traffic; changes in zoning and development; increases in numbers of freight trucks; bicycle and pedestrians safety; and preservation of historic landscaping. We requested consideration of a new right-hand turn lane on southbound Washington as a traffic alternative; access to the traffic study data; and a broad discussion of regional traffic as part of the General Plan update. Nathan promised to provide us with minutes of this meeting, the traffic study data and a concept drawing of the new right-hand turn lane, a subsequent meeting and a site visit.

The subsequent meeting and site visit occurred on January 25th. We met at the Community Center at Villegas Park to review the documents that Nathan had provided: the results of the traffic study and a concept drawing. He confirmed that the lane addition that we had suggested would reduce the delays to acceptable levels of operation and that there was adequate space on Washington to construct the lane, although an electrical box, a power pole and a water runoff collection area would have to be relocated. We then drove out to the intersection and confirmed the facts in person and that signage was adequate and all trees would be safe.

The next step will be for Nathan to report back to the Transportation Committee. We look forward to a resolution that will both fix the afternoon traffic delays and save Victoria Avenue from any alterations that will affect its historic designation status or recreational value. We will update our membership when this meeting has been scheduled.



Site visit on January 25th—Left to Right are Traffic Engineer Nathan Mustafa, Darleen DeMason, Bill Wilkman and Sally Mazzetti

Recent Events and Activities:

Clean-up in the Dr. Lewis Garden, Nov. 17th

We had 33 volunteers turn out to help us clean up the Dr. Lewis Garden on this beautiful morning. Thank you to members of Key Club Centennial, NSCS, National Charity League (NCL), Riverside Garden Oasis, and VAF. The City of Riverside Department of Public Works provided support to carry off the debris. Mayor Bailey came out to see another example of Riverside Pride! Afterwards the Garden looked better than it had for years. Thank you to everyone who helped!



Rose Planting in Lorraine Small Garden, January 19

We had 49 volunteers come to work in this rose garden at Myrtle Street and Victoria Avenue. They came from Poly High School (NHS), National Charity League (NCL), UCR (Beta Phi Delta) and VAF. It was a great day for gardening and we did a big makeover. Jesse Fierro from Public Works came out to help. We planted roses, transplanted roses, weeded, pruned and mulched.



***Please see our upcoming
volunteer workday events on
page 8.***



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Dedicated to the preservation of Victoria Avenue, Riverside, California with tax-deductible financial contributions from: Membership, Memorial Donations and Tree Commemorations.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

VAF 2019 Volunteer Calendar

Tree Planting

February 23, 2019 at 9AM

Meet at **Adams St and Victoria**

California Arbor Week Tree Planting

March 9, 2019 at 9AM

Meet at **Madison St and Victoria**

Tree Planting

April TBA, 2019 at 9AM

Meet at **TBA**

Great American Cleanup with KRCB

May 11, 2019 at 9AM

Meet at **Jane and Victoria**