

November 2009

Hacienda Road Closure

Hacienda Road is closed through November for repair from slide damage. Residents are enjoying the relative peace and quiet of the absence of 15,000 cars, trucks & motorcycles that typically travel the road each day. Recent closures in 2001, for repaving, and for three



days in 2008, for a water main break, stopped through traffic at City Hall. With the current road closure, drivers enter the heart of the city, encountering myriad changing signs and minimal guidance, leading to scores of citations written, lost drivers wandering roads, and numerous driveway turnarounds.

A head-on collision occurred on Ardsheal Dr between two Heights residents bypassing Hacienda Rd.



Water District News

Roy Stewart, first appointed to the Water District Board in 2000, passed away, at age 86, on October 19th.

The Board awarded the contract for the Skyline Water Tank in the amount of \$1.156 million. The estimate was \$1.45 million. The tank is expected to be completed in April 2010.

Be Sure to Vote Tuesday November 3rd

Why Should I Vote in the Water Board Election?

Each Water Board candidate was asked to answer the above question to encourage you to vote.

Brad Cooke answered, "... to choose your representative. The more people who vote, the better the representation.

Jeffrey Heintz replied, "It is important to vote in every election, and local elections are even more important because your vote has more of an impact."

George Edwards said, "It's important to elect board members that will protect and defend the La Habra Heights Rural lifestyle. Protecting open space resources from development begins with your elected officials on the water board. No water, no re-development. Please volunteer your support in protecting La Habra Heights by voting on November 3rd."

Water Board elections consistently attract a fraction of the number of voters that participate in City Council elections, even though important decisions are made. A recent Water District annual budget of \$3.8 million exceeded a City General Fund budget of \$3 million. Polling places are the Park Building and La Habra Christian Church. Polls open 7 A.M. - 8 p.m.

That's "Above My Pay Grade"

At a recent Commission meeting, Commissioner Ray Fernandez said it's "above my pay grade" to determine if projects comply with codes, adding that he thinks that is the job of Staff. Fernandez owns a home building company and is President of the Building Industry Association of S. California. The State Planning Commissioner's Book says a Commissioner needs to make determinations about a project; "Is the proposal consistent with the general plan? Does it meet all applicable zoning or subdivision ordinance requirements?"

Get Involved

Briefs

Vipperman Says "No"



Southern California Edison proposes to put 200 foot high towers and power lines along the city's northern boundary and through Powder Canyon, devastating views and values. A Council subcommittee is working to reroute the towers or lessen their impact. At the October Council meeting, Mayor Vipperman refused to write a letter on behalf of the City,

regarding the problems the City is having with Edison.

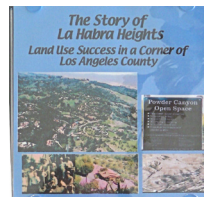
CPGP Returns

In the 1990s, CPGP was formed to prevent the development of Powder Canyon and other violations of the General Plan.

The General Plan is the constitution of the City and is supposed to guide development.

CPGP recently regrouped as the "Coalition to Protect the General Plan", to inform the community about the General Plan, its importance, and how the current City Government is not implementing it.

The October monthly meeting was held at the Suncrest clubhouse, and included a soup dinner for the neighborhood and other attendees and a showing of "The Story of La Habra Heights", a film about the battles fought to preserve the unique rural environment.



Fire Watch More Than Fires



The Fire Watch is a dedicated group of radio-equipped volunteers who have organized to offer reports and added patrols to the community. Their mission is to educate and encourage active participation in fire mitigation efforts in and around La

Habra Heights. Monthly meetings have included presentations on fire resistant vegetation, construction and prevention of wild fires. Monthly meetings are held at 7 p.m. the 3rd Wednesday at City Hall. Visit their web site at: www.lhhfirewatch.com for more Information.

Follow-up

More Water Board Dining & Drinking at Public Expense



DAWSONS	
Table: 13	Check: 2718822
Server: Ardavan	Guests: 2
Date/Time: 5/20/2009 18:45	
LARGE PARTY	
2 Smirnoff @ 9.50	19.00
1 Cosmopolitan	9.50
2 CRUZAN @ 7.50	15.00
PEPSI	
1 Old Fashioned	7.75
1 Chivas Regal	9.00
1 Chivas Single [9.00]	
2 Stimson Lane @ 7.00	14.00
2 Roasted Beets @ 9.00	18.00
1 Oysters	15.00
1 Dawson's Wedge	9.00
1 Mixed Greens	8.00
3 Prime Rib Cut @ 27.00	81.00
3 Filet Mignon @ 32.00	96.00
2 Ferrari Canaro @ 11.00	22.00
1 Laphroaig 10Yr Laphaig Single [10.00]	10.00
1 Half Chicken	26.00
2 Choc Souffle @ 8.00	16.00
1 Rusty Nail	8.50
1 Hot Water/Tea	3.00
1 Cappuccino	3.50
Subtotal	390.25
Service Charge	70.25
Tax	34.15
Total	494.65

Board candidates responded in a 10/21 Whittier Daily News story regarding charging alcohol to the Water District. (Board Check example adjacent) "The situation was brought to our attention and was corrected,"

Cooke said. It's not going to happen again, Heintz said."

In 2006, Cooke signed the District policy forbidding alcoholic drinks or spouses' meals being charged to the District.

In the article, candidate Edwards said, "That is a betrayal of the public trust for them to claim they are fiscal conservatives and do this"

Cooke and Heintz held firm on the need for a \$100 per meeting stipend.

Edwards rejects the need for a stipend and perks .

Update - Improvement Association Fraud?

After the story on Improvement Association representations as a 501(c)3, when they have been a 501(c)4 since 1966, references to 501(c)3 and deductibility of contributions were removed from the Heights Life.

More detail on all stories can be found at www.LaHabraHeights.net