



# Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation, Inc.

Post Office Box 353, Agoura Hills, California 91301

February, 2007, MEETING ([www.lvhf.org](http://www.lvhf.org))

Thursday, February 15th 2006, 7:30 P.M.

The Place – Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Boardroom – 4232 Las Virgenes Road

## Calabasas City Council Candidate's Forum

### Know the Candidates

Barry Groveman  
Toby Keeler  
Dale Reicheneder  
Dennis Washburn

### Get informed on the issues

### Register to Vote

### Send for a Mail-in Ballot

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## StoneCreek Homeowners' Association

On occasion when an important event organized by one of our member organizations conflicts with our regular meeting schedule we suspend our regular meeting and encourage our delegates to attend. This month, StoneCreek Homeowner's Association is holding a Candidate's Forum for the four candidates vying for two open seats on the Calabasas city Council. We encourage your attendance at this event and look forward to seeing you at next month's meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> back at Diamond X Ranch when there will be a presentation by representatives of Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol on their Operation Safe Canyons program for this year.

## **FEDERATION CANDIDATES FORUM CANCELLED**

The Federation cancelled its Candidates Forum scheduled for February 6<sup>th</sup> when we learned we were too late to schedule Calabasas City Television coverage (we just addressed the issue at last month's meeting and some of us were unaware of this requirement). Deborah Steller, who coordinates this coverage for the city, told us that we needed to give them 60-days notice for this type of event so that they can arrange their crew schedules. We felt the coverage was an important part of the event because it dramatically increased the number of people who could watch it and this was the principal reason why we decided to cancel.

We understand there may be some speculation floating about that this event was cancelled because some of the Federation delegates and board members have endorsed candidates. We should note that, under City rules, organizations are free to put on forums so long as they have not officially endorsed a candidate and board members who have endorsed candidates may not participate. We addressed that issue in planning this event by arranging for an independent moderator from outside the City who had made no endorsement to coordinate and run the program. We believe this moderator would have produced a fair and unbiased forum, but despite that, we did not want there to be any question on the integrity of the event. We are sorry for any inconvenience this cancellation may have caused.

A bright note is that one of our newest member organizations StoneCreek Homeowners' Association is holding a forum this Thursday night at the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Boardroom. This is in conflict with our regular meeting and, since many of our delegates live in Calabasas, we have suspended our regular meeting this month so that delegates can attend. We have done this in the past when there are scheduling conflicts with important events put on by member organizations. We hope you will attend whether you live in Calabasas or in the surrounding area.

## **THE "BIG FREEZE" OF '07**

I had the sprinkler running to give my trees a badly needed watering one night a couple of weeks ago when I noticed a bright, sparkling quality to the branches around the sprinkler. I came closer and saw they were covered with large icicles.

Driving around town since then one sees a lot of dead-looking banana trees, eucalyptus, and other shrubbery and flowers, most of which will eventually come back in some form, but, in the interim, those dead leaves will pose a serious fire hazard for the next several months, something we don't need in this exceptionally dry year.

In this free country a citizen is able, of course, to landscape his yard with just about anything that strikes his fancy, but, with few nurseries locally that are familiar with the specific climate conditions in Las Virgenes, it might be well to post a few signs around town to the effect that "This ain't Florida" or at least "This ain't Santa Monica".

We do get a good, hard freeze here every once in a while (16 in Malibu Canyon and 7 in Monte Nido in 1968, for example), so it might be well to remind newcomers to your community that, unless they enjoy cutting back and digging up dead shrubs and flowers, they may want to

consult a local nurseryman or gardener familiar with our specific local climate before indulging their desire to surround their home with lush tropical growth.

## **CALABASAS GPAC TO MEET THURSDAY NIGHT**

The Calabasas General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) will hold its second meeting this Thursday evening from 7:00 to 9:00, this time in the City Council Chambers at Calabasas City Hall.

This week's agenda includes,

- 3-5 minute reports from each GPAC member
- Review draft of a proposed community outreach survey
- Review draft list of "Key Stakeholders – Draft list of Interview Candidates"

The "Key stakeholders – Draft list", with whom meetings are apparently planned, includes, among others, "Business owners", "Key landowners", "Chamber of commerce", "Local developers" ... "Selected HOA representatives – CPHA, 53 HOA's total", etc. The Federation is not mentioned on this "Draft list of Interview Candidates", nor are any individual associations except CPHA and Calabasas Highlands.

Some delegates have expressed disappointment with the City's decision to schedule GPAC's monthly meeting the same night of the month the Federation meets. Since Calabasas is still part of the Free World, individuals or member associations who are not happy with City decisions are certainly free to call their concerns to the attention of the City Council during the public comment period at the beginning of City Council meetings, in personal communications, or by inviting members of the Council, staff, or GPAC consultants to Federation meetings. If you feel strongly about something the City is doing, take advantage of one or more of these ways of communicating your concern.

In addition, individuals or member associations are free to attend GPAC meetings and speak up during the public comment period at the end of each meeting.

Any individual or member association that is interested in receiving GPAC meeting agendas and/or meeting materials should contact City Planner Tom Bartlett at [tbartlett@cityofcalabasas.com](mailto:tbartlett@cityofcalabasas.com) to see how such materials can be obtained.

Those individuals or member associations who want to be on the list of potential stakeholders to be interviewed by the consultants should contact either Tom Bartlett or City consultant Erik Justesen (who grew up in Monte Nido) at [epjustesen@rrmdesign.com](mailto:epjustesen@rrmdesign.com).

Finally, those who want to be actively involved in the drafting of the new General Plan, need to remember there will be Public Workshops every three months or so during the GPAC planning process. The first workshop, on Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> is not scheduled on a Federation meeting night, nor is the next workshop, a two-day series on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, MAY 19<sup>th</sup>.

So, having GPAC meeting the same night as the Federation may not be an ideal situation, but it should not keep delegates and officers from being active participants in the creation of the next Calabasas General Plan.

## **SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS LCP UPDATE**

The Regional Planning Commission held its final public hearing on the latest revisions to the Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Plan on January 24<sup>th</sup>, downtown – just like in the good old days.

Cold Creek delegate Jim Wrigley and Joan Kay of Monte Nido attended and spoke for their communities.

The meeting was well attended. There were a few landowners and developers, but the great majority of those attending and speaking were equestrians, some from outside the area and others from the Las Virgenes community.

Most of those equestrians testifying were rather moderate and, while not totally happy with the LCP, several pointed out that, if the County did not enact this LCP, the Coastal Commission might try to impose something even more restrictive.

After the public hearing closed, two commissioners indicated they had problems with the prohibition on development of “significant ridgelines”.

Things seemed not to be going our way until planner Gina Natoli pointed out that the Grading and Significant Ridgeline Ordinance had already been enacted into law, and the LCP policies were consistent with it. That calmed things down a bit for the moment, but it also alerted us to the fight ahead of us when the LCP gets to the Board of Supervisors.

After some discussion, the Commission voted to approve the LCP in concept, but asked staff to bring back answers to several questions before taking final action at a future meeting.

The next step will be action by the Board of Supervisors. That will be a much greater challenge than the Regional Planning Commission. Our best information is that there are presently two votes in favor of the LCP (Zev Yaroslavsky and Gloria Molina) and two votes against it (Michael Antonovich and Don Knabe). Once again the “swing vote” will likely be Yvonne Burke. It’s safe to say we will need to make a maximum effort when the LCP gets to the Board, as we did with the North Area Plan and the Ridgeline Ordinance to get this important plan adopted.

## **TRIANGLE RANCH GOES BEFORE LA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MARCH 27th**

As expected, the Triangle Ranch developers have appealed their loss at the planning commission to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. In a 5-0 vote the LA County Planning Commission showed their resolve to support the North Area Plan and denied the

Triangle Ranch application for 60+ homes in rural Los Angeles County near the intersections of Kanan and Cornell.

Area residents, local lawmakers and cities all came out against the Triangle Ranch due to the applicant's unwillingness to comply with the North Area Plan; a regional planning document championed by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Calabasas, Agoura Hills and many other local and regional leaders. Since its adoption by Los Angeles County Supervisors (5-0 vote) the document has served as the guiding principal for development planning in the Santa Monica Mountains area in the LA County.

Triangle Ranch developers have repeatedly rebuffed attempts by local officials and concerned residents to reduce the size and scope of the project. At the end of last year, the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission voted 5-0 to reject the application and now the applicant has taken the issue to the Board Of Supervisors.

Please show your support of the North Area Plan by contacting Supervisor Yaroslavsky's office at 213-974-3333 or email [zev@bos.co.la.ca.us](mailto:zev@bos.co.la.ca.us) and voice your support to uphold the unanimous vote by the planning commission to deny the Triangle Ranch application.

As always, the Cornell Preservation Organization will be providing free bus service to and from the hearing on March 27<sup>th</sup>. For more information or to reserve a space on the bus please contact CPO president Colleen Holmes at [holmes.c@earthlink.net](mailto:holmes.c@earthlink.net).

## **ANNUAL MEDEA CREEK AND CANYON CLEAN-UP**

The Cornell Preservation Organization and Triunfo Lobo Community Association is hosting the annual Medea Creek and Canyon Cleanup event on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007. This year's event will be an expanded version of prior events focusing on education, preservation as well as trash collection and restoration. There will be a BBQ following and prizes for most trash collected. The event will be fun for all. Please plan to attend.

To confirm your attendance or for more info please contact Chet @ 818-597-9447

Event Details:

S.E. Corner, Kanan and Agoura Roads

Time: 8:30am- 1:30pm

(Rain Out Date: March 3<sup>rd</sup>)