



# WOOD STREETS QUARTERLY

Newsletter of the Historic Wood Streets Association

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Riverside, California

January 2012

## HWSA President Cindy Jensen

Happy New Year!

As we embark on a new year with new opportunities we also have some challenges to resolve. We have all been concerned by the increased activity in our neighborhood. Recently, we've had a wide range of occurrences here – everything from people making unusual requests at our front doors to unwanted characters coming onto our properties and even removing things from them. This seems to be a common occurrence throughout the city during these tough economic times.

In light of this, I hope you took the opportunity to go to the Neighborhood Watch meeting on January 24 or Mayor's Night Out on January 25, or the Walk with the Mayor on January 28 at RCC. These were great chances for all of us to ask the important questions and state our concerns about what has been happening in our neighborhood. While I won't say "forever hold your peace" if you didn't attend, I will tell you that "Now is the time for all good neighbors to come to the aid of our community."

We can't just voice our concerns in e-mails to one another; while we do forward these messages onto the powers that be, we need to communicate our concerns directly to the people who make the decisions and are responsible for the common welfare of our neighborhood. It is often necessary to express these concerns over and over again.

A lot of this recent activity is being blamed on AB109 Inmate Realignment Program Assembly Bill 109 – which is designed to transfer prisoners from State penitentiaries to County facilities and then onto City Facilities and thus save the State money. The cities then have to release criminals who have committed lesser crimes into the city and our neighborhoods.

We are to the point that we don't care what the reasons are; we want it to stop!

We need everyone's help, we need Neighborhood Watch to be on every block, and we need you to attend meetings to voice these concerns at every opportunity.

Report any suspicious and/or "criminal" activity you see to the police department. If you are reporting an emergency call 9-1-1, if you are reporting and incident (not of an emergency nature) call dispatch supervisors at 787-7911. You can report graffiti at the 3-1-1 number for city services.

We all need to do our part,  
Respectfully, Cindy

## November 5 Meeting Highlights

Attending the November 5 meeting were 21 residents, Councilman Mike Gardner, and representatives from the Library and HICAP.

### Library Benefits Community Tonya Kennan, Riverside Public Library

Tonya explained how Measure I benefits the Library without adding a monetary increase to taxpayers. (The measure passed on the November 8 ballot.)

The Library has eight branches throughout Riverside, one in each Ward. They reflect the communities they serve. Tonya highlighted a few services. Homework Help (Brain Fuse) 24/7 is very popular; all you need is a library card, you are matched with someone who can walk you through it, and it's followed up with an email transcript. This is national program, so may link across USA. Mango Languages offer the chance to learn a second language free online at your own pace. The library also provides other important services to the community, including computer training, desktop computer use and free internet access for users, loaning VHS, CD and DVD media and more than a million items each year, and offering home delivery of books and materials to people who are home-bound.

### Medicare, HICAP Ricardo Gonzales, Community Educator, HICAP

HICAP is a federally-supported Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program. Ricardo went over a few details about Medicare. If you are new to Medicare or changing your insurance plans, they suggest that you start asking questions of them about 2-3 months ahead of the deadline each year. Medicare 1-800-434-0222

Historic Wood Streets Assn

President: Cindy Jensen	248-9209	Vice President: Andy Bryant	784-6815	Newsletter, Email Notices:	Office of Neighborhoods	826-5195
Secretary: Chris Jensen	248-9209	Treasurer: Ursula Vogelsang	328-0160	Judy Mahoney 788-9310	Preferential Parking:	826-5366
chrishen28@sbcglobal.net		Hospitality: Terri Donnelly	686-2090	WoodStreets@aol.com	Police non-emergency:	787-7911 or 311

There are 59 different options for 2012. HICAP looks at current doctors, facilities, and prescriptions, and helps you narrow down the options to 3 or 4. They offer one-on-one counseling for individuals about Medicare at local Senior Centers such as Janet Goeske Center, 5257 Sierra Street, Riverside (951) 351-8800 <http://www.janetgoeskecenter.com>

### **Councilman Mike Gardner**

- **RR grade separations** – with completion of Magnolia, landscaping will continue; Streeter and Riverside Ave are upcoming.
- **Tequesquite Park** – construction to begin in January; proposal to rename the park after slain officer Ryan Bonaminio.
- **Marcy Library** has many interested parties seeking to use the location and some will actually use the historic building for their business. What happens there is dependent on what is decided in the courts about the Redevelopment Agency's funding and existence which is in question due to State budgetary rulings.
- **Street Lighting** - All street lights will be replaced in 2012 from Jurupa to RCC east of Magnolia with historic style concrete post, acorn-type light, and foundation. If you have the old style in front of your house, and you want it, you can have it. Otherwise the city will haul it away. (*See back page, Meeting.*)
- **Curbs** – There was a question about driveway access made difficult by cars parking too close– Mike said contact him about having curb painted.

### **RNP Board Member Updates**

Congratulations to Larry Utesch, who was elected to the RNP (Riverside Neighborhood Partnership) October 22. He begins his three-year term in January, and said he will visit neighborhood groups and keep us updated. Cindy Jensen is stepping down after years on the board. Justin Scott-Coe accepted another term.

### **Mike Gardner Update**

If you read the *Wood Streets Sheet*, you know that our Councilman Mike Gardner had back surgery December 7. He reports he is recovering well and hopes to be back on his Segway soon.

### **Larchwood Neighborhood Watch**

Larchwood residents (Magnolia to Riverside) restarted their Neighborhood Watch in October, created a complete phone tree, and called another meeting for January 24, inviting all our blocks to

attend. Michele Carry and Dirk Ward have worked tirelessly and thoughtfully in this effort, and are owed a big load of gratitude.

Cindy reminds us, “This is exactly the kind of involvement we need on each street to discourage intruders. Keeping the street connected and up to date will only enhance everyone’s safety. I would like to encourage other streets in our Neighborhood to do the same. If you want information on how to bring this about please contact Nancy Castillo.”  
[ncast@riversideca.gov](mailto:ncast@riversideca.gov) phone (951) 826-8721

### **3-Way Stop at Ramona/Castle Reagh**

January 18 the Traffic Division of Riverside City Services installed a three-way stop at the corner of Ramona Dr. and Castle Reagh Pl. after neighbors at the location made the request, and after the City did a traffic study to verify the need for this control measure. Please note, this is a stop sign, not a “rolling stop” sign.

Cindy writes, “We have witnessed vehicles speeding through our part of the neighborhood for a long time and have seen many close calls. I personally have had to step back up onto my lawn while sweeping debris from the curb. So the signs have been installed, and hopefully it will slow the through traffic – people who use the Wood Streets as a shortcut to and from Magnolia Ave. and RCC. We realize that the stop signs may cause some of our neighbors some inconvenience, but we hope all will appreciate our needs for safety in this part of the neighborhood.”

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Yard Sale April 28**

Thanks again to Rosemary and Larry Utesch for hosting the 2012 Annual Wood Streets Yard Sale. Recycle unwanted items, visit with neighbors, and make a little money! They will provide printed maps for buyers, and the event will be broadly advertised. Call or email today – [lru@tarbell.com](mailto:lru@tarbell.com) Larry (951) 682-6789; Rosemary (951) 313-2823.

### **Street Sweeping**

Reminders are sent by email just prior to each first and third Wednesday. If you haven't signed up for email notices, it is never too late. Contact Judy at [WoodStreets@aol.com](mailto:WoodStreets@aol.com).

Odd side of street swept 7:30 AM – 11 AM;  
Even side of street same day 11:30 AM - 3:30 PM.

## Daylight Time Resumes March 11

Mark your calendar to begin Daylight Time March 11, 2012. Standard time resumes November 4.

## Green Team – 2 Community Gardens

Pat Silvestri

The following projects are now under way with support from the Green Team:

Garden 1 – The RCC Community Garden is expected to break ground in late February or March. The plot for this garden has already been tilled to break up the compacted soil, and a fence around the site should be constructed by mid February. A team has been working on a design for this garden, and RCC has formed a steering committee which includes Marilyn Morris and Pat Silvestri as representatives from the community. A work day to begin building the garden will be announced before March to obtain help from neighbors interested in having space in this garden. Guidelines for assignment and management of the garden are also being developed and should be available to select gardeners by the time the plots are ready to be planted. It is hoped that a spring crop can be planted so that the first harvest can be ready before the heat of the summer. Although space in this garden will be limited, all persons interested in helping with this garden should contact Pat at [silvestri.pat@gmail.com](mailto:silvestri.pat@gmail.com) or Marilyn at [mjmorris2006@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mjmorris2006@sbcglobal.net).

Garden 2 – The major project under the Community Garden Initiative is the garden in Tequesquite Park. A planning group has been meeting since last November, and we now have several potential plans for consideration. The next planning meeting for this garden is February 8 at 7 PM. At that meeting several additional plans will be reviewed for consideration. After all the proposals have been reviewed, all persons who have expressed interest in this garden will be contacted to obtain their input and suggestions. From this process, a master plan will be developed for the group to begin identifying the irrigation and material needs to prepare for the work to be done. The construction of this park is expected to begin by the end of January, and the work will continue for at least 12 months. During that time, materials and funds will be acquired to be used when access to the garden site is possible. This access will depend on the approval of the contractor building the park. It is hoped that some

access will be given to the group during the summer and fall of this year so as to begin the preliminary work to prepare the plots for planting next winter. With over one acre of land and about 48,000 square feet, this garden will eventually accommodate dozens of residents, although initially a smaller area would be planted to meet the needs of the people who are able to use the plots effectively. All persons interested in working on this garden also are encouraged to contact Pat or Marilyn as noted above.

## Green Riverside Leadership Summit

Over the past 6 years Riverside has taken an increasing focus on making the City become more sustainable in operations and within the community. Numerous organizations are working on a green or sustainable program of their own ranging from neighborhood development to watershed protection. Each organization faces numerous challenges and may benefit from another group's expertise or experience. The Green Leadership Summit was created to organize a network of likeminded individuals to further advance their causes, provide resources and expertise to one another. The first meeting will be at California Baptist University, 8432 Magnolia Ave, Copenbarger Dining Room, February 1 at 5:00-8:30 PM. 951-826-2242 or email to [rchaira@riversideca.gov](mailto:rchaira@riversideca.gov)

## Myrtle Right-Turn Lane

The City of Riverside and the Cultural Heritage Board are seriously considering closing the **Free Right Turn Lane** which allows traffic to turn right from Myrtle onto southbound Victoria Ave. This is to accommodate a gift of 2 acres of citrus parkland near the intersection.

If the free right turn lane is eliminated, traffic will proceed to the stop sign that now controls left turns onto Victoria to make the right turn.

The next meeting of the Cultural Heritage Board about this topic is Wednesday, March 21 at 3:30 PM in the City Council Chambers. There are many of our neighbors and other people in Riverside that have kids attending Poly High School that use this route daily.

If you think that this change will be a mistake, please let Councilman Rusty Bailey and Councilman Mike Gardner know of your opinion about this change ASAP. Their respective email addresses are: [rbailey@riversideca.gov](mailto:rbailey@riversideca.gov) – [mgardner@riversideca.gov](mailto:mgardner@riversideca.gov)

## Nursing & Science Building RCC

RCC invites you to attend the Grand Opening of the new state-of-the-art School of Nursing & Science/Math Complex Grand Opening, February 9, 2012 at 3:00 PM, Riverside City College, 4800 Magnolia Ave, in the new Healing Garden courtyard. RSVP Diana Meza (951) 222-8958.

## Bulky Item Collection

The 3rd Saturday of every month, City of Riverside residents may show their utility bill and dispose of their bulky trash and yard waste for free at the Agua Mansa Transfer Station at 1830 Agua Mansa Rd.

Drop-off days March 17, April 21, May 19.  
<http://www.riversideca.gov/cure/schedule.asp>

## Treasurer's Report

Balance on December 31, 2011: \$590.94. Your voluntary dues (suggested \$12/year) help offset costs of newsletter, meetings and events such as National Night Out and BBQ. Payable to HWSA, c/o 3581 Elmwood Ct, Riverside 92506.

## Remember New Meeting Time 9 A.M.

Our quarterly meetings are set for 9 AM to free up more usable Saturday time for other things. Please see back for February 4 meeting announcement.

## Calendar

- February 1, Green River Leadership Summit 5 PM at Calif. Baptist University, 8432 Magnolia Avenue
- February 4 – **Quarterly HWSA Business Meeting** –9 AM Alumni House 3564 Ramona Dr
- February 8, 7-9 PM Tequesquite Community Garden Planning Mtg Alumni House 3564 Ramona Dr
- February 9 – Grand Opening Nursing & Science Building – 3 PM RCC 4800 Magnolia Ave.
- March 11 Daylight Time Begins
- March 21 – CHB re Closing of Myrtle Right-Turn Lane – 3:30 PM City Council Chambers
- May 5 Quarterly HWSA Business Meeting –9 AM Alumni House 3564 Ramona Dr
- August 7 – National Night Out and HWSA Barbecue and Ice Cream Social



Saturday, February 4, 9 AM - 11 AM

## Quarterly HWSA Business Meeting

Alumni House – 3564 Ramona Dr

Coffee, tea and water will be provided

RSVP Cindy 248-9209 or email Judy at [WoodStreets@aol.com](mailto:WoodStreets@aol.com)

Agenda:

**Dave Wright**, City of Riverside,  
will speak on the new (historic style) street lights

**Amber Dobson and Patricia Lock Lawson**, Santa Ana River Trust.  
(Partnering with Riverside Land Conservancy)

Learn more and express your concerns regarding the Santa Ana River and Trail

Mike Gardner – Updates  
Neighborhood Reports and Concerns