

# Fox Canyon VOICE

We're Just Wild  
About Our Neighborhood!

Volume 9, Issue 5

MARCH 2007

All **RESIDENTS** and **BUSINESSES** of: all of **LANTANA, RENO, AUBURN** (4758-5160) **DRIVES**; all of **ONTARIO, CASTLE, South side of UNIVERSITY** (4749-4849), East side of **EUCLID** (3611-3889), **ESTRELLA** (3803-3857) **AVENUES**; **DWIGHT** (4759-4792), **WIGHTMAN** (4750-4871) **STREETS**.

## FOX CANYON TREE PLANTING & Community/Creek Cleanup

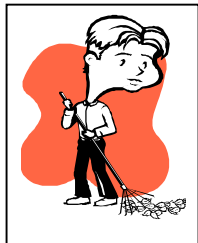
**Saturday, April 21, 2007, 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM**  
**Volunteer Central, 4916 Lantana Drive, SD, CA 92105**

### The Tree Planting Organizing Group

*[Thomas, Claudia, George, Susan and Jose]*

*Cordially Invite You to Join*

**Councilmember Jim Madaffer,**



**Neighbors and  
Community Volunteers**  
to plant trees, pick litter and  
clean **Auburn Creek** in  
Fox Canyon

#### Proposed Agenda:

- 8:30 AM – Volunteers Sign-in *[Breakfast snacks]*
- 9:00 AM – Event Starts
- 12:00 Noon – Volunteers Appreciation
- 1:30 PM – Thank You! Event ends

#### ATTIRE

This is an out-of-doors event. The expectation of clean, nice and expensive clothing is non-existent. Closed-toe/sturdy/work shoes, gloves, dark sunglasses, sunscreen and long sleeves/pants are strongly recommended.

#### WAIVER OF LIABILITY

All volunteers are required to sign a release, waiver, of liability at sign-in. Please download it from

<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/pdf/nhextra/196204817/822929152/458661767.pdf> print, fill and bring it with you.

#### TEAMS

Volunteers will be assigned to each of four teams needed.

#### TRANSPORTATION

Please, carpool and/or take public transportation [**bus route 936** stops at Euclid/Dwight (one block west from Volunteer Central)]. But, if you must, Parking will be available at the west end of Dwight Street.

Continues on **Page 2**, see **TREE PLANTING**

## EL CAJON BLVD MEDIANS

The community joined Mayor Jerry Sanders, Councilmember Jim Madaffer, El Cajon BIA, the Crossroads PAC, neighborhood leaders and City Crews this last March 22, 2007 at 9:00 AM to ground-break the Medians Project along El Cajon Blvd.



In this picture (l-r) Jose Lopez, Crossroads Vice-Chair; Mayor Jerry Sanders and Thomas Du, Crossroads Board Member also attending was Gretchen Torgerson, Fox Canyon Treasurer and Photographer for this event.



Mayor Jerry Sanders and Councilmember Jim Madaffer

Continues on **Page 2**, see **GROUNDBREAKING**.

## NEXT ASSOCIATION MEETING

**Tuesday, APRIL 10, 2007 @ 6:15 PM**  
**4380 Landis Street, Room 1&2**  
(City Heights Park & Recreation Center)

**Proposed Agenda:**

### **NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS:**

Tree Planting, Council Meeting, Wightman Street Park, V-PAC

## **COME and JOIN US!**

**The BOARD of DIRECTORS meets**  
**Tuesday, April 24, 2007 @ 6:30 PM**  
**4380 Landis Street, Room 2**

**The V-PAC meets Wednesday, April 25 @ 6:30 PM.**

## **Fox Canyon Neighborhood Association, Inc.**

**[A 501 (c)(3) Public Benefit and Social Welfare ([www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov)**

**"publication 78" listed) Nonprofit Corporation]**

**4916 Lantana Drive, SD, CA 92105**

**(619) 282-2788**

**[FoxCanyonN@aol.com](mailto:FoxCanyonN@aol.com) and/or [foxcanyonn@cox.net](mailto:foxcanyonn@cox.net)**

**[www.FoxCanyon.Org](http://www.FoxCanyon.Org)**

**Web-site**

### **TREE PLANTING**

**Leading Partner Organization**



#### **DONORS:**

Jesse Chavez  
Trung Du  
The Peoples  
Family,

#### **SPONSORS:**

Community  
Collective, LLC

Affirmed  
Housing Group



#### **PARTNERS:**

Alpha Project, Neighborhood Code Compliance and  
Environmental Services Departments

### **VOLUNTEERS:**

**Volunteer San Diego, Volunteer Match,  
Craig's List, KPBS, the Marines and**

**Hope Worldwide** in conjunction with the San Diego Church of Christ Hope Worldwide is putting together an event titled National Global Youth Service day on April 21, 2007, which is geared towards encouraging youths worldwide to take part in volunteer projects in their communities.

Hope Worldwide will be providing 10-15 volunteers (volunteers will be college and high school students) for the Fox Canyon Tree Planting, Street and Creek Clean up project on April 21 because it will serve as an opportunity for Hope Worldwide to encourage youths to take part in a volunteer service project in the community, which will be in line with the objectives of the National Global Youth Service Day project.

Thanks,

Fisayo Osibodu

**This Tree Planting Event is partially funded with a CDBG**

### **GROUND BREAKING**



Michael Trunzo, President, College Area Business District, Mayor Jerry Sanders, Councilmember Jim Madaffer and Charles Maze, Crossroads Chair

After many years [ten to be exact] of preparation and planning, sections of El Cajon Boulevard are the next in line to have beautiful new landscaping installed. The community has been looking forward to these improvements and construction/installation has finally begun. Many community leaders were on hand to welcome the public to this significant event that will impact the lives of so many. The project itself is to reconstruct and landscape El Cajon Boulevard medians from 54<sup>th</sup> Street all the way to the La Mesa border near 73<sup>rd</sup> St. There is a section near College Avenue and 54<sup>th</sup> Street in which there are no medians and this project will not change that area. The project is expected to take 180 work days to complete. The El Cajon Boulevard medians project is being paid primarily with Crossroads Redevelopment Project Area tax increment funds (\$2,090,000) and the landscape maintenance will be paid for by property owners along El Cajon Boulevard as part of a Maintenance



Assessment District (College Heights MAD) that was established in April 2004.

Thanks, Tracy



The community-at-large, City Officials, Area Leaders and City Workers posed for this picture at the El Cajon Blvd Median Project Groundbreaking; for the picture, THANKS, Leslie.

## THE FOX CANYON/WIGHTMAN STREET PARK



With great undue burden and sacrificing pay, rest and time, members of the Fox Canyon community made the journey downtown -to City Hall- to put a great fight for a much promised, worked-for and deserving neighborhood pocket Park. The latest bout on park item-331 [like my cousins] three times removed, (continued) produced a much wanted, supported and a wonderful City Council vote [6-1-CD-4 excused] in favor of moving the State Urban Parks grant scope, awarded to build the Fox Canyon Park, to the New Fox Canyon/Wightman Street site. The resolution asks the State Parks to agree in amending the grant scope and new location.

This new location [number 7] will enhance the proposed Fox Canyon Park System [pictured above] and welcomes one more pocket park to the mix [yellow] serving the same needy and park starved community. In addition, tucked into the resolution [R-2007-524] is this paragraph: "The Fox Canyon park site [parcel 5] will remain in consideration as a potential park [site]. Once a determination is made regarding the development of Ontario Avenue, and if the site is available, the City will consider purchasing it to continue the "String of Pearls" concept along [Auburn Creek] Chollas Creek". So, at the center of the controversy is the intriguing question of parcel 5's failed sale. After a phone conversation with Real State Assets, the parcel owner, at one point, agreed to sell the parcel for \$475,000 [price way high of real value] and based on that phone conversation, the City issued a "good faith offer" letter for such amount. But, in between, SOME ONE got in hold of the owner and showed him the grant amount stated of \$800.000. The parcel owner then

counter-offered for \$995.000, five thousand shy of a MILLION! One common thread running throughout the entire length of testimony at City Council and with the biased Turko Files is, the "opponents" hard push to meet this "willing seller" STIP and very unreasonable land price, in cahoots, conspiracy or a nasty promise? Or, is it because they offered the parcel owner the assurance of more money from the Taxpayers pocket, in refusing the City's best offer? So, the community wants to know: who brought this issue to the parcel owner in detriment of his own best interest? As by now you all may know the appraisal on parcel 5 has valued the land at \$53,000! Greed or BAD judgment and/or BAD council, the owner needs to come clean with the community.

Throughout testimony, Attorney Bob Ottlie, Park & Recreation Board, tried to make a case in favor of the parcel owner and twist the City's arm to meet the "willing seller's" whooping \$995.000 price for a piece of wasteland, supported by a MEDDLING City Attorney [Michael Aguirre] the "GANG of FOUR" and people from the Peninsula, Point Loma, Ridgeview, Clairemont and everywhere else foreign to our neighborhood, but NOT by our Fox Canyon community. Anyway, we are not removing parcel 5 from the desired and being worked upon Fox Canyon Park System. Like a charm bracelet the wanted, as desirable pocket parks, parcels dangle from Auburn Creek in a vision of a completed system signaling to a day in which our community can recreate in the mist of Fox Canyon. Thanks to our hard and diligent work, rest assured the implementation of this dream has begun. ½ acre Auburn Park is in the making, and so with time, soon, will be parcel (7) at Wightman Street [both in yellow]. Publicly, at City Council and on YOUR behalf, I asked for the City's purchase of parcels 1, 3 and 4 [RED] from the Mid-City Parks Fee Fund to complete our neighbor's vision of a linear park system abutting Auburn Creek [spanning from University to Euclid], to service our needful and park starved community. Jose Lopez, President.

## DEAR COUNCILMAN MADAFFER

THANK YOU for your continued, tireless support for a park in Fox Canyon (Item 331 on the March 27 agenda). Your integrity and commitment to Fox Canyon while detractors were clamoring at the door are an example to us all.

Best regards,

Bob and Marilyn Kinsley

## MUCHOS THANK YOU'S

Muchos Thank You's to the Honorable Toni Atkins for providing the "second" to Mr. Madaffer's motion to amend the park grant and to the other four Honorable Council Members [Scott Peters, Benjamin Hueso, Kevin Faulconer] who voted in their support to the motion and specially to the Honorable Donna Frye [we sincerely hope that the Sierra Club, Ms. Carolyn Chase, Mr. Stump and Ms. Quiroz remain your dear friends after this] who voted her conscience in support and benefit of a community that desperately needs parks. We were very surprised and impressed by your vote and were not expecting it at all, but we really LOVE you for it Mrs. Frye, many, many THANKS!

Muchos Thank You's to Marilyn, Max, Mercedes, Thomas, Doris, Ted, Ellen, Alfred, Gretchen, Jose and especially to Yoshie Yarmick, at 81 years old, she felt extremely compelled to attend the Council meeting along with her neighbors. This was Yoshie's first time ever at City Hall, exemplifying the urgency our community feels in seeing our Parks System done.

Muchos Thank You's to, 96 Year-old, Catherine Burger, Jesse, Rosa, Jesus, the Perez Family, Trung, Jose, Affirmed Housing Group and many other who provided and sent in letter in support, in all 10 letters were submitted including one from the Chollas Creek community with forty [40] signatures supporting Item-331.

Muchos Thank You's to YOU all, neighbors and friends, for the long string of phone calls and emails to Mayor Sanders and all Council Offices. As always, I'm extremely PROUD of your dedicated and constant work, and for the community's unity, loyalty and support that you provide when pushing the items that will make Fox Canyon a better place to live and recreate.

Jose Lopez, President.

## FENCE

In City Council Chambers, on March 27, Mr. Larry W. Zajonc mentioned, to me, the fact that if the City Council were to vote in favor of transferring the State Parks grant and NOT to buy his property, that he would FENCE IT; a fantastic and extremely welcome idea! Let me tell you why: twice a year, for the last ten years, we, the residents of Fox Canyon and under our leadership, the City, partner organizations, Project Clean and volunteers have been cleaning the vacant lot, and the Auburn Creek running through it [north side] of transient and overnight encampments, trash/debris/litter and GRAFFITI, FREE of charge to the parcel owner. We are ready to do it again this approaching Saturday, April 21. Why have we spent so much time and effort cleaning his property? To abate a NUISANCE property [in the owner's own words (Turko Files), "a dump"]! If we were to serve an accounting on Mr. Zajonc: volunteer labor hours, equipment, tools and materials, plus dump fees could easily amount to three times the value of this property [at his asking price of \$995,000]. So we could have our park at this site, at the end. In addition, the fencing of his property could deliver the following benefits: (a) the demarcation of Ontario Avenue's right-of-way [dedicated since 1911, now a paper street], (b) to stop the non-contested pedestrian, bicycle paths and park easements [which are more than ten years old] which are polluting the US waters of the Auburn Creek and eroding its banks [unethical attorneys, do you smell another \$5,000 law suit?] and (c) the savings of thirty minutes of driving around the canyon rim to paint over the graffiti wrapped around this nuisance property [the brown house on top of the hill retaining wall]. Please, Mr. Zajonc tell us when you plan to fence your vacant parcel, we'll make of it a big event. In addition, we'll get you a bunch of VOLUNTEERS, who will be very happy and readily to help you abate your nuisance property. Please, show this article to your attorneys, I know, they will ask, if we have any pictures? We sure do and, in addition, we have all the Turko Files tapes to prove it too. Jose Lopez

## PARKS, LIES AND VIDEO TAPES

Perfect actors for a movie of this title played a good performance leading, and at, the meeting of City Council on Tuesday, March 27. A "using power for political gain" accusatory City Attorney, a biased and slanted reporter, a "greedy" landlord, and a tearful woman using a SD Union/Tribune article (February 21, 1993), scripted, and modified to instill compassion toward their cause, were the perfect cast displaying this drama watched by all on City Channel 24. Angelic and clean from sin Mr. Aguirre, accused innocent Madaffer of "conflict of interest, corruption and conspiring to commit a crime and under investigation", sent his bogus report to the District Attorney asking for felony charges. Biased and slanted Turko Files left this successful and compassionate format to air, for weeks, "Parks in Peril" to scare the blues off everyone, especially the Council Members, Parks Staffer April Penner and to demoralize a deserving community, prior to the meeting. While "citizens" provided the Turko video tapes played on-and-on at the Council meetings. A \$475,000 good faith offer by the City to buy an undeveloped parcel for a park went out through the roof to a \$995,000 asking price by the "willing seller" when the appraisal (agreed upon by both parties) ended up to be only \$53,000, talking about greed! ...And that woman, choking back tears, talked about "HANKY" Davis Jr., and the killing creek with a 75 feet drop luring

innocent children in their natural need to play. Thankfully, the City Council was able to see past all this drama, came together and voted to amend and re-scope the now famous, Fox Canyon Park State grant to build a park on the new Wightman Street site. Thanks to the City Council, now my neighborhood will begin to get the parks it deserves.

Trung Du

## Councilman responds on Fox Canyon park issue

Regarding "Fox Canyon flubs/ City officials still not addressing major issues" (Editorial, March 5):

The role of a City Council member is to provide leadership, see that citizens receive the basic services they expect from city government and improve the quality of life for residents. I will always fight for the residents of District 7, including building a desperately needed park system in an area neglected by too many people for too long a time.

I'm proud to be known as someone who uses his influence to improve the quality of life for District 7 residents. Residents expect and deserve nothing less. The city, community leaders and I have been working on a park system in City Heights since I came to office. It is a needed project, there were numerous public meetings and discussions, funds were allocated appropriately, and this issue was voted on by the City Council.

I am confident that the residents of Fox Canyon, a City Heights community, will ultimately prevail and have the parks that they deserve.

JIM MADAFFER  
San Diego City Council

C-B11, the San Diego Union Tribune, Thursday, March 8, 2007

## COMMUNITY POLICING HURT BY DEPARTURES

(U/T Letter to the Editor re: Police - published 4/2)

When I first took on the role of Neighborhood Watch block captain seven years ago, we had a community relations officer, or CRO, assigned to us. He attended our monthly meetings and assisted in countless ways to resolve problems and lessen criminal activity in our community. His position



as liaison actually saved the San Diego Police Department valuable time and resources. His leadership and guidance of our many block captains afforded us confidence in community policing and crime prevention. About 18 months ago, the three CRO positions were combined into one position. Now, just one officer has taken on the impossible task of covering an immense area. His effectiveness is watered down and he does not even have the time to attend our one monthly meeting.

Guess what has happened as a result? Crime is up in our neighborhood. You only have to look at the ARJIS.com Web site to see the trend of increased prostitution, narcotics, domestic disturbances and the like. Many Neighborhood Watch groups are on the brink of disbanding out of frustration, lack of leadership or even a minimal police presence. I call on the mayor and the City Council to reinstate the CROs so we can get back to a partnership with our police and decrease crime in our communities. It's time to find money in the budget for this cost-effective solution. Maureen McElroy, Talmadge

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

[Tuesday, March 27, 2007]

The Board meeting of March 27 was moved to the City Council Chambers and then adjourned to merge with the meeting of April 24, 2007.

Mercedes Martinez Shetter, Vice-Chair and Acting Secretary

## ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

[Tuesday, March 13, 2007]

Meeting called to order, by Lopez, at 6:15 PM.

Meeting attendance: Thirty-two [32] Members including guest. The Association welcomed Five [5] new members: Frank, Damian Tryon, Ignacio & Magdalena Aguirre and Francisco Rodriguez all from Auburn.

Update(s): Tree Planting Event, Fox Canyon/Wightman Street Park site, your support for the State Grant transfer.

Announcements: Attend the City Council Meeting on March 27 @ 2:00PM.

Field/Comm. Rep's Reports:

- o Rebecca Leister, County Supervisor, Chair RON ROBERT's Office: Distributed
- o Fernando Reyes, Assemblywoman SHIRLEY HORTON's Office: Shirley says hello, you're all invited to attend the Rolando Street Fair, other issues and distributed the "Horton Update".
- o Lt. M. Kaiser, SDPD Mid-City: "Pleasure to attend your meeting".
- o George Andrade, Land Use Investigator, NCCD, "here to address your concerns and take your reports".
- o Claudia Gutierrez, Urban Corps San Diego, "Tree Planting and watering agreements".
- o Nicholas Barrett, guest.

Off-Agenda Public Comment: None

Neighborhood Concerns: Code Enforcement needed on Castle Avenue.

Presentations:

- Ms. Laura Barlow, Affirmed Housing Group, Auburn Park Project Manager: Auburn Park Update.
- Ms. Laura Barlow, Affirmed Housing Group, Management Company: Rental Qualification Criteria, Management Practices, Etc.

Refreshments: Kindly donated by Affirmed Housing Group

Adjournment to the Corporation of the Fox Canyon Neighborhood Association, April 10, 2007, at 7:45 PM

Jose Lopez, President

**Love Your Neighbors as  
You LOVE Yourself!**

Newsletter Circulation: **550** hard and **1,925** E-mailed copies.



## The Fox Canyon Voice

**Reserves for itself the right to edit for space, clarity and content all materials submitted for publication.**

The views expressed in this newsletter are strictly those of the authors and **DO NOT** necessarily reflect the views of the FCNA, Inc., organization.

Doris Pierson proofreader, we're grateful for the donation of her precious time.

## GRANTS WORKSHOP

**Thursday, April 12, 2007 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**



Manchester Conference Center, University of San Diego

**5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, CA 92110**

Dear Friend,

I would like to be sure to invite you to a grants workshop I will be hosting on Thursday, April 12. This event will feature speakers from San Diego Grant-makers, the California Endowment, and the San Diego County Office of Resource Development. These speakers will focus on how organizations can find and apply for federal and private grants. Space is limited, so please call (619) 280-5353 to RSVP. I hope to see you there!

Warm regards, Susan



Thanks Marilyn

# REWARD

**\$500.00**

***RECOMPENSA***

For information leading to the **ARREST** and **CONVICTION** of the person(s) damaging/vandalizing (car keying, rock, egg, cabbage throwing, etc.) at a property on the **4800** block of Lantana Drive  
(Fox Canyon/City Heights)

Please contact SDPD Mid-City **Detective Gains** (619.516-3024)  
Or SDPD CRO (Community Relations Officer) **Pat Norris** (619.515-2732)  
Must be over 18 years old to call.

Se ofrece una muy jugosa recompensa de \$500.00, a la persona que provea información que lleve a cabo el **ARRESTO** y **SENTENCIA** de la persona(s) que han dañado con actos de vandalismo (rayando automobiles, tirando piedras, huevos, repollo, etc.) a una casa de habitación en la numeración 4800 de Lantana Drive  
(Fox Canyon/City Heights)

Por Favor Llame a: SDPD Mid-City Detective Gains (619.516-3024) ó ha SDPD CRO (Oficial de Relaciones Comunitarias) Pat Norris (619. 515-2732)  
Al llamar, la persona tiene que tener 18 años de edad

**PAID ANNOUNCEMENT**

***Anuncio pagado***