



JULY 2006

<http://www.uhills.uci.edu/>

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UHILLS SUMMER FIESTA

You are invited to the **UHills Summer Fiesta at Gabrielino Community Park on Saturday, August 12, from 3 - 7 pm.** Please note that the time of the party has been changed, relative to what we announced in last month's Newsletter, in order to avoid the heat of the day. This community party is being sponsored by the HRB to celebrate the completion of the major phase of construction at Gabrielino Community Park. The party will include fun activities for the whole family: bounce houses, face painting, three-legged races, water balloon toss, court vs. court tug-of-war, dance contest, a community softball game, dog treats for the new users of the dog park, etc. Games and activities will take place primarily between 3-5 pm, and food will be served from approximately 4-6:30 pm. Come and have some fun, enjoy our beautiful new park, meet up with old friends and make brand new ones!

The University Club, who will bring additional grills to the park, will cater the Summer Fiesta. There will be a charge for the food, which will consist of "all you can eat" burgers, hot dogs and chicken hot off the grill, potato and green salads, chips, soft drinks and water, cookies and sno-cones. Children 3 years of age and younger can eat for free, but you must pick up a bracelet for them. Food bracelets will cost \$4 per person if purchased on or before July 28, and \$6 per person if purchased after July 28. You can purchase the bracelets from the ICHA office during normal business hours (8 am – 5 pm) or after hours and on weekends from one of our neighborhood Block Captains (see the list below). More Block Captains will be identified, and we will post the complete list on the uhills.org website and send it out on the UHills listserv. Procrastinators will be able to purchase bracelets at the party, but we strongly encourage you to purchase them by July 28 so that we can give an accurate estimate of attendance to the caterers. We don't want to run short of food, especially not the sno-cones. Sno-cones also will be sold separately for 50 cents to those who don't want to partake in the rest of the food. Please note that you are not required to purchase food to attend the party and take part in the activities.

Seating is limited at Gabrielino Park so we encourage you to bring along beach blankets, umbrellas and folding chairs for optimum relaxation and enjoyment. Feel free to bring your own additional refreshments, but for safety sake please leave any glass containers at home. Two portable bathrooms and a sink will be on-site for the event.

A neighborhood party this large requires help from lots of volunteers to make it a success. We would like to hire a few teens from the neighborhood at \$10/hour to assist us with face painting and other activities. Please email me at chrishane@cox.net or phone me at 509-7195 (evenings) to be a Block Captain or to take a half-hour long shift leading or supervising the games and activities – WE NEED YOUR HELP! We welcome your suggestions, too. With sufficient help, we can make this into a yearly event that unites and strengthens our community.

BLOCK CAPTAINS & THEIR ADDRESSES

Brian Cummings	4 Murasaki
Carolyn Farmer	22 Gibbs
Liz Phillips	11 Russell
Deborah Shaka	1 Virgil
Tammy Smecker-Hane	2 Eliot
Michelle Walot	36 Schubert

---Tammy Smecker-Hane, Parks Committee Chair

HRB MEETING MINUTES – June 06, 2006

1. CCC/HRB preview of Community Center plans

The CCC and HRB were given the opportunity to preview preliminary plans for the Community Center; a brief summary is appended later in the newsletter.

2. Pandemic planning

Rachel Gamby is taking part in campus training and suggests inviting targeted staff & residents (CERT trained emergency response coordinators) to a meeting to discuss general necessities for UHills that would be an issue in the case of a pandemic based on the current campus plan. Conversely, this information would then be communicated to the UCI staff coordinating a pandemic contingency plan. Additional information will be advertised as it becomes available. FYI, the UCI pandemic plan can be accessed at:
<http://www.ehs.uci.edu/programs/occhlth/pandemic/index.html>

3. UHills Summer Fiesta

Funds were requested for a UHills Summer Fiesta event by the Parks committee, celebrating, in part, the opening of the second half of the Gabrielino Park. The event will take place Saturday August 12th 3-7pm, an official announcement, details, and calendar of events will appear in the June, July and August newsletters. This request will use the bulk of the HRB community activities budget for both this (2005-2006) and next year (2006-2007). Request was approved. The HRB has formally invited the ICHA board and staff to attend.

4. Park Toilets

Plumbing/power has been run for a permanent restroom adjacent to the playing field at the Gabrielino Park. A major concern is potential vandalism; one consideration is a timelock mechanism for the evening hours. Andrew Herndon is investigating two options, with the hope that installation may take place this summer. A similar facility may be possible for the longer run at Vista Bonita, but is not planned immediately and would require running additional power/plumbing for any potential location.

5. Harvey Court Mailboxes

There have been problems with obstruction of mailboxes in Harvey Court; resolution unclear at present. Relocation or reorientation of the mailboxes is one option under exploration.

6. Housing move-ups, recruit lottery, move-up lottery

There was discussion of the recent newsletter letters concerning the dilemma of U-Hills residents who lack opportunities to move-up. The HRB encouraged ICHA to consider more actively facilitating a process whereby top of the "list" faculty and lottery winners have the option to trade their claim with an existing house owner that is seeking to sell their home. In many cases this would allow existing faculty to access larger houses that suit their current means and needs, and allow new junior faculty to avoid being forced to buy a house that is larger than they want or need with a burdensome mortgage.

7. UHills Parking issues

Stacey Murren, Parking and Transportation director from UCI kindly joined the HRB for a discussion of possible approaches to address parking problems in UHills. A principal concern has been student parking in lower UHills, compounded by one-sided resident parking in phase 7 and 8. Possible solutions discussed:

- A. Permit regulation system
- B. No street parking M-F 8am-5pm
- C. Online vehicle registration
- D. Designated street guest parking
- E. Security gate
- F. Collaboration of parking systems (different solutions in different locations)

Current proposal is to approach a small area of residents in UHills with significant current problems to be a test site for one or more of these possible approaches in the fall. A neighborhood discussion will be organized and reported on at the next HRB meeting.

---Aileen Anderson, HRB

COMMUNITY BUILDING CONCEPT PLANS PREVIEW

On May 16th, a group of HRB and CCC members were able to preview Architect Leason Pomeroy's current concept plans for the Community Building. The plans were conceptual in nature but have been rendered to reflect the community programming priorities provided by the HRB/CCC. The HRB/CCC members were pleased that the

community rooms specified in the Matrix are all included in the concept plan at this stage. ICHA is presently estimating the cost of the current plans to determine their financial feasibility before sharing details with the community. As part of the review, discussion between ICHA and the HRB / CCC members included topics for consideration as part of the next phase of design. After the cost estimating confirms the project's feasibility, ICHA will provide an outline of the remaining building design and development process, and the stages during which there will be opportunities to discuss the design.

---HRB

NEWS FROM THE IRWD

Water Conservation Tips

- Water your lawn when it needs it. Check by stepping on the grass: if it springs back up when you move, it doesn't need water; if it stays flat, it's time to water. Trees and shrubs generally require about half (some shrubs even less) of what the lawn needs. Brown "hot spots" require extra care. Don't turn up the water if you see a small patch of brown turf. It will mean over-watering other plants and will result in higher water bills. Instead, look for blocked sprinkler heads or an uneven coverage. Adjust the irrigation system or water that spot by hand.
- Water during the cool parts of the day. Night and early morning are the best times to water. Also, avoid watering on windy days.
- Don't water the gutter! Position your sprinklers so water lands on the lawn or garden, not on paved areas. Try watering for a shorter period with repeat cycles.
- Cycle your lawn clippings. Mow frequently (every five to seven days) and leave the clippings on the lawn, if they are not too long. Build up should not occur if you have cut back on the fertilizer. The clippings will restore nutrients to the soil and slow water loss due to evaporation during the high temperature months. Consider raising the height of your mower blade, but make sure your lawn does not grow to block the sprinkler heads.
- Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Mulch will slow evaporation of moisture and discourage weed growth, too. Keep mulch a couple of inches away from trunks and stems.
- Yellow leaves on shrubs may be a sign of over-watering. More plants suffer from over-watering than from becoming too dry!
- Check for broken sprinkler heads and for leaks in hoses and couplings. Leaks outside the house can go unnoticed for a long time, especially when sprinklers are timed to go on when no one is watching.
- Feed roses and annual flowers regularly for the best blooms.

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule for the months of July and August Weekly Watering Schedule for SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Turf grass	Trees, shrubs, groundcover
4-5 days, 2-3 cycles* of 3-4 minutes	2 days, 3 cycles* of 4 minutes

Percent option: 100% **

*By "cycling" your irrigation timer to turn on for the suggested number of minutes an hour apart, you reduce runoff and gain deeper watering and healthier root growth. Start with this weekly schedule and increase the times only if your plants show signs of stress. If stress occurs only in isolated areas, check your irrigation system before increasing the time.

**Some irrigation controllers have a feature by which the watering time can be set by changing the percentage instead of specifically entering the days, cycles and minutes.

**If you don't have the instructions for your controller, check the manufacturer's website.
Many controller manufacturers provide online access to the owner's manual.**

Controller Rebate

IRWD encourages residential customers to upgrade old irrigation controllers to new weather-based "smart" technology. These state-of-the-art irrigation controllers conserve water, save money and reduce runoff by automating landscape watering based on the weather and water needs of plants.

The SmarTimer Rebate Program provides IRWD customer with rebate amounts of \$40 to \$44.50 per activated valve, or an average of \$440, to offset the purchase of the new irrigation controller. In order to participate, residents must possess a fully operational automatic irrigation system on a minimum of 1200 square feet of irrigated landscape. The existing controller should not exceed a maximum of 48 valves.

Rebate funds are limited and available on a first-come-first-served basis. To obtain a packet with full details on how to participate call toll free (866) 846-3725 or visit <http://www.mwdoc.com/SmarTimer/>.