

**JULY 2005**

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Editors: Lauri Barwick and  
Nina Macdonald

## **NOTE FROM THE ICHA BOARD**

Dear residents,

The ICHA Board has received a number of positive comments and proposals concerning how to foster better communication with residents. Some of the ideas appear to be more practical than others but the Board has encouraged the HRB to generate community wide discussion before any proposals are adopted to be sure there is support for these efforts beyond just a few individuals. We continue to discuss various ideas and appreciate any thoughts you have about expanding the HRB membership (perhaps with neighborhood by neighborhood representation), augmenting the HRB with an advisory committee, or any other ideas. We are at the beginning of an important and timely review of these issues.

On behalf of the ICHA Board of Directors,

---Sincerely, Richard Haier

## **HRB MEETING MINUTES - June 7, 2005,**

**Present:** Aileen Anderson, Jeffrey Beckwith, Brian Cummings, Komal Dewan, Rachel Gamby, Andrew Herndon, Ron Reid

The meeting began with the owner of a Bartok Court residence briefly in attendance to explain his failure to landscape his property. The plan he presented was provisionally approved. He was given 60 days to install the landscaping. It was agreed that he would continue to remain in contact with Andrew until the landscaping is installed.

Andrew presented the following ICHA Operations report (in italics):

### **Monthly Operations Report, ICHA Management**

#### ***Community Development***

- *Expansion of the Gabrielino Community Park half basketball court and new masonry bounce wall is complete. The Park Committee and ICHA are coordinating with a Phase VII resident to paint a mural on the face of the wall. The painting project is anticipated to include a number of U-Hills children.*
- *UCI Recreation Swim lessons are organized and off and running. They will be held at the Upper Pool consistent with other years and include the University Montessori children on Tuesdays and Thursdays.*
- *Elections for Boards of Directors for both Condo I and II were held in May. Members of the Condo I Board are: PRESIDENT: JEFF BECKWITH, VP: MARY COLLIER, SECRETARY: CAROLYN WHITE, MEMBERS: MARILYN SOLEY, TREAS. T. THOMSON)*
- *Members of the Condo II Board are: SARAH FARMER, REBECCA CRAFT, TERRI LE PAGE, CLAYTON GARRISON, CATHY MOORE (Officers have not been selected).*
- *Police records continue to note no significant disturbances at the Garden Park. Patrols have been stepped up due to the on set of warmer weather.*
- *ICHA Management will be meeting with the Faculty Welfare Committee in early June to discuss the HRB proposed adjustments to the priority period for new recruits to purchase homes in U Hills.*

#### ***Community Maintenance***

##### ***Work in Process:***

- *Tree Pruning has been completed in approximately 1/2 of the community and will continue through June. Some HRB members expressed concern that the Tipu trees near Gabrielino apartments had been pruned too radically. Andrew answered that the pruning was necessary.*
- *Fire hydrant testing will be completed by the end of June. Some residents may experience the presence of sediment and possibly some rusty water during the exercising period.*

##### ***Work Completed:***

- *Bronte Street asphalt final cap was installed in May.*
- *New display/bulletin boards have been installed at Gabrielino Community Park and at the Los Trancos Pool.*
- *All pools and spas were open and heated for the May 31, Memorial Day opening. Temperatures have been boosted 1 to 2 degrees. A new clock was installed at the Los Trancos pool, replacing the stolen one. New umbrellas have been placed at both the Los Trancos and Urey pools.*
- *All BBQ services have been overhauled in anticipation of the heavy use summer period.*
- *Several courses of masonry block were added to a low section of the Garden Park wall along one residence, providing security and better sound attenuation.*

### **Architectural Reviews**

- *Nine new architectural applications were received in May. Five landscaping and hardscape applications from Area 8 expansion, two house paintings and 2 window replacements requests from houses on Dickens and Perkins were approved by ICHA Management. One house addition on McClintock was approved in the course of the month by ICHA Management and three HRB members.*

### **HRB Committee Reports**

Parking, Transportation and CEP, Jeff Beckwith – The following notes from the Thursday, May 26, 2005 Campus & Environmental Planning Meeting were submitted by Jeff by email prior to meeting but not discussed at the meeting due to lack of time.

Attendees: Richard Demerjian, Andrew Herndon, Aileen Anderson, Gary Krekemeyer, Jeffrey Beckwith

- ***Southern Radial***: scheduled to open the first week of September. Paving is scheduled to take place in July and finishing work in August and September. The construction schedule will be updated weekly on the listserv. Richard Demerjian, Andrew Herndon, and Mary Opal will walk the site to determine when the slope planting can occur.
- ***Palo Verde II Apartments***: The trees and shrubs have been planted in the greenbelt and parking lot areas. The shrubs are small, but should grow rapidly. One shield was incorrectly installed and will be adjusted.
- ***Engineering/ICS Parking Structure***: The intersection and signal should be completed the first week of September. The current construction schedule calls for the structure to open in January 2006. Weather delays could alter this schedule.
- ***University Hills Apartments***: Removal of dirt on the lower Gabrielino site should occur in late June. The site will be fenced at that time.
- ***Other Items***: Flags continue to be stolen at the Engineering Gateway crossing. Signs have been posted requesting people not remove them. A widening of West Peltason to four lanes is still a strong possibility in the future.

### **Playgrounds**

Tammy Smecker-Hane joined the meeting to present the plans that the committee has developed for the playgrounds adjacent to the Los Trancos and Urey pools. Committee members are: Simon Cole, Komal Dewan, Pascale Mestdagh, Carole Uhlaner, Alyssa Stanford, Michelle Rodriguez and Tammy Smecker-Hane. Tammy presented one plan that exceeds the budget from reserves (\$86,400) by 9% and explained the rationale for the choice of equipment. The budget presented included vendors' incentive price breaks and discounts that the committee has identified. One item, the "Glacier", needs to be ordered by the end of June in order to take advantage of a vendor incentive that will provide another item worth \$5,000. A number of alternate upgrade structures and elements were also presented along with the reasons the committee preferred them. The HRB endorsed the committee's recommendations in the first plan, endorsed proceeding with ordering the "Glacier, and recommended that ICHA make additional funds available to permit the substitution into that plan of two of the upgrades that the committee had indicated were the highest priority (an additional \$12,714.) The HRB and ICHA Management thanked Tammy and the committee (and the children of the committee members) for all their thorough research and community consultation in developing these plans. The HRB and ICHA Management also thanked Tammy and the committee for organizing the May 15, 2005 Gabrielino Community Park Ice Cream party, which was a great success: approximately 400 residents attended.

### **Pools**

Wayne Sandholtz had indicated by email prior to the meeting that he'd received approximately 30 e-mails from people asking that all the pools be heated to 80 degrees to make them more comfortable for recreational swimming. Although one person opposed raising the Los Trancos Pool temperature so that it wasn't too warm for serious lap swimming, another resident looked up the temperatures at major lap-swimming pools in the area (including the ARC) and found that they range from 80 to 83 degrees. The HRB strongly recommended this change to ICHA Management.

ICHA Management indicated that they had changed the pool heating schedule to have all three pools heated from the beginning of May to the end of October. The HRB again requested that ICHA Management check average temperatures in November and May to see whether making this schedule change will save money.

### **University Hills Budget**

The HRB were given the opportunity to review a draft of the University Hills budget. The draft showed a \$3 increase in dues. It was noted that the pool heating budget was the same as last year, despite an increase in number of households with Phase 8.5 being occupied. The HRB expressed dissatisfaction that despite previous requests to increase the pool budget so many cut-backs on the schedule have been necessary this year. ICHA Management said this was in part due to an unusually cold Fall as well as increased gas prices. The HRB repeated its assertion that if solar heating could be installed, price fluctuations would impact the pool heating budget less. The HRB strongly recommended that the pool heating budget be increased to ensure that the schedule, as it stands (but with the modification that all three hot tubs would be heated 24/7 year round), can be met (even with the increase in the pool

temperatures and with potential gas price increases.)

### **Joint HRB/CCC meeting with Chris Darrouzet**

Following up on the ICHA Board's request from the May 10 ICHA Board meeting, that the HRB contact Chris Darrouzet to do a facilitated meeting to discuss the roles University Hill's three governance groups, how each works on behalf of University Hills residents and UCI, and how to enhance the working relationships among these three groups and with University Hills residents. Chris Darrouzet joined the meeting to brief the HRB and CCC (who had also been invited to this portion of the HRB meeting) on the proposed meeting and discuss expectations and logistics. Present for this portion of the meeting were: Aileen Anderson, Brian Cummings, Komal Dewan, Rachel Gamby, Andrew Herndon, Lu Forrest, Harry Mangalam, and Chris Darrouzet.

Chris explained that he had met with ICHA Management and the chair of the ICHA Board, and will be attending the June 14 ICHA Board meeting.

Chris described the proposed facilitated meeting as follows:

Attendees will ideally be ICHA Board members (10 people), ICHA Management representatives (approximately 4 people), HRB members (7 people), and 9 other resident representatives.

The latter 9 representatives would be selected from 8 geographical zones in U-Hills that roughly relate to the phases of U-Hills construction, plus Las Lomas apartments. The logistics of how these 9 representatives were to be elected was discussed. Tentatively the plan is to put out a call for volunteers to host neighborhood meetings in each of the zones. Each host will organize a meeting at which a representative will be elected.

Facilitated meeting topics that the HRB consider important included:

- Formally documenting the HRB's role as more than an Architectural Review Board
- Significantly increasing the amount of information about ICHA Board and its actions that is available to residents
- Greater budget transparency

The HRB expressed concern that so much time, nearly a month, had already passed and that a commitment ICHA Board to go forward had not yet been given. This concern was greatest concerning the Community Center, because while most residents expressed a desire for a halt in the planning, pending further discussion, most residents have also said they do want a Community Center. The HRB does not want residents to lose their chance to have a Community Center as a result of this process being too protracted. The HRB is therefore concerned that the facilitated meeting take place as soon as possible.

The HRB agreed that in order to proceed, ICHA Board would need to approve funds for mailings to residents (in addition to email notifications) calling for volunteers to host neighborhood meetings in each of the zones, and other key communications leading up to the facilitated meeting which the HRB recommends is held in July at the latest. It was agreed that to achieve a July meeting date a call for volunteers to host neighborhood meetings would need to be emailed and mailed out, and posted to the listserv no later than Thursday June 16.

The HRB requested that Andrew relay a request that two HRB representatives be permitted to attend the June 14 ICHA Board meeting to permit a preliminary discussion of expectations all parties have from the meeting.

---Submitted by Rachel Gamby

## **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Early in May, I volunteered to help plan and facilitate a meeting to bring a more participatory design element to the next phases of Community Center planning. After the ICHA Board put planning on hold in the aftermath of some of the community member's reactions to the plans, they asked if I wanted to propose a plan for a similar kind of meeting among the governance groups to work on communication issues, which the board saw as important to address before resuming planning on the CC. I agreed to do so. Recently I met with the HRB, ICHA Admin, and the ICHA Board to present my ideas.

My idea was to hold a highly collaborative, participatory design style meeting, with all of the stake-holders present (including additional residents selected by neighborhood meetings.) The facilitated meeting would ask everyone to work through set of reviews of each governance group's mission, composition, practices and policies, current issues, and directions for near term and longer term. We would also hold discussions on some key recurring issues, such as budget matters, and, end up addressing how best to proceed with planning for the CC. It would be a careful, respectful stock-taking of where we are as a community in terms of the work of the governance groups that mediate the UC/UCI -- residents relationship in University Hills.

The upshot of this effort is that a meeting *of the kind I proposed* will NOT be held. While the HRB agreed to participate in a meeting of this kind, the ICHA Board respectfully declined. The ICHA board itself can express best its position and reasons. I can only gloss here what I heard them to say as their reasons for declining to participate after hearing what I had in mind:

--- The meeting I proposed was more encompassing than the board feels is necessary.

--- The board does not see evidence that a significant number of residents are calling for such a meeting

--- It would be overly time consuming

--- From their perspective, the main problem area is what the board calls a "communication issue" of a certain kind: that the residents have not found or exercised a way of communicating to the board reliably and effectively what residents want.

The ICHA Board did agree informally that it is more than willing to receive proposal(s) from HRB / residents for how they can gather, assess and represent to the board their views and opinions more reliably and effectively; such a proposal may include altering the HRB or other governance issues on the residents side of things.

So, it is now back in the residents court to decide if it is worthwhile to spend the time and energy to address this "communication" issue in the terms the board has framed it AND the other issues which the board currently does not see a need to address. These other issues include the ways in which the overall governance setup and some of the practices of the ICHA admin and Board contribute to the communication issues and to other, significant frustrations and problems experienced by a significant (but undetermined) number of residents. I am already in conversation with HRB members and others to consider next steps.

The meetings I attended with the HRB, ICHA Admin and the ICHA board were conducted in cordial, responsible, helpful ways. The people who work on these governance groups work hard on our all of our behalf, regardless of how we feel about their viewpoint or actions on any particular issue.

I learned a great deal about the "unique" set up we have here, much more than I can convey in this brief informational note about the proposed meeting. (I am preparing a longer report what I learned for the listserv.) My take just now is that we are indeed part of an evolving experiment. I personally find the current governance set up awkward; it works wonderfully in many situations and contexts but it is structured in such a way that there is no formal deliberative body through which residents can work that has much decision making power or financial control points under its authority. We residents are, to put it in humorous frame for a moment, something like "wards of the State." For many of us, that's fine. For others, it's okay to annoying. For other's still, either in principle, or, if you get caught up in a particular situation where the odd governance and problem solving structures come into play, it can be (in some cases, hardly all) burdensome at best, or frustrating to infuriating at worst.

Is there a problem? What is the problem? What to do about any of it? Clearly the impasse over the Community Center showed up some of the issues in broader relief. At the same time, the Board has responded to the push-back by putting things on hold to remedy some things. Just what needs remedying is still part of the discussion we are embarking on, though this conversation will not take place in the context of the kind of facilitated meeting I proposed. My thanks to everyone who agreed to talk with me and to the governance groups who agreed to at least consider this one approach.

---Chris Darrouzet, 54 Whitman Ct.

## **r.a.d.KIDS AT UCI**

The *UC Irvine Police Department* in conjunction with the *Campus Recreation* is offering another **r.a.d.KIDS Safety Academy** class! This course is open to children of UCI students, faculty, staff and children from the surrounding community's. This 12-hour class will be held in the Anteater Recreation Center on the UC Irvine campus.

There are 2 separate Academies for 2 age groups:

**8-10 year olds** - July 11th, 12th, 13th, 18th, and 19th - 2:00 - 4:30 PM

**5-7 year olds** - August 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 8th, and 9th - 10:00 - 12:30 PM

Registration is on a first come basis. Cost of the course: \$40.00 per child. Returning r.a.dKIDS Graduates - Free! To reserve a position in the course, please pre-register on-line at: [www.police.uci.edu](http://www.police.uci.edu) Once the on-line registration is received, you will be notified regarding enrollment status and payment requirements. **Space is limited!**

### **What is r.a.d.KIDS?.....?**

radKIDS is the leading educator in realistic and empowering personal safety education for both children and parents. The radKIDS Program is providing children with hope, options, and practical skills to RECOGNIZE, AVOID and ESCAPE violence and abuse. Our mission is to educate children with the tools, knowledge and power to recognize and avoid danger as well as to resist and protect themselves from physical abuse.

The radKIDS program is based on the foundation of a structured educational curriculum that includes realistic physical skills to escape attack or abduction. The martial arts programs that most children are involved in today are typically competition-based, and are usually centered around either sport or combat arts. radKIDS is not a sport, and specifically teaches children how \*not\* to fight. radKIDS provides the children in our world today with realistic skills to recognize, avoid, resist and, when necessary, escape physical violence and/or harm.

### **Objective**

To provide educational opportunities for children and parents, concerning awareness and self defense strategies, instilling confidence and reducing the possibility of being involved in adverse situations.

For further information please contact Cpl. Caroline Alberti at (949) 824-5223 or [calberti@uci.edu](mailto:calberti@uci.edu)

## STREET BIOGRAPHY – GABRIELINO (One In A Series)

The Gabrielino Indians, also known as the Tongva, were peaceful hunter-gatherers of the Takic family and Uto-Aztecan stock. They settled in Southern California around 500 B.C. and occupied the coastal plains from Malibu Creek to Aliso Creek, some inland valleys, and the offshore islands of Santa Catalina and San Clemente. The Gabrielino Indians were so-named after the San Gabriel Mission (1771), one of two missions established on Tongva lands (Mission San Fernando Rey was founded in 1797).

An advanced and wealthy people, the Gabrielinos hunted deer, coyote, rabbit, fish, and birds using various tools, such as the bow and arrow, javelin, snares, and traps. Their diet also included wild greens, berries, and acorns, which after extensive treatment to remove the bitter tannic acid were made into bread, gruel, or used in soups. Yucca was another source of food and was also used to make sandals. Tule grass was woven into skirts for the women and used in thatched, cone-shaped dwellings. Both men and women wore their hair long. Tattoos were made by rubbing charcoal, for example, into small wounds. Jewelry included necklaces of beaded stones, shells and seeds, and earrings of cane. Gabrielino crafts included basket making, stone and shell crafts, and boat making (a skill they adapted from the Chumash). They believed in one creation deity and explained that an earthquake occurred when one of the seven giants who supported the earth on their shoulders suddenly moved to readjust the load.

Mission life and European diseases depleted Native American populations in California. Forced to build and work on the Spanish missions, the Indians were never allowed to return to their previous lifestyles and lands. They eventually succumbed to small pox, chicken pox, measles, tuberculosis, and pneumonia. In 1700, there were an estimated 5000 Gabrielinos; by 1900, there were 50. Today, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, there are perhaps 300 living in Southern California. The Gabrielino-Tongva legacy also survives in several local place names: Cahuenga, Topanga, Tujunga, Pacoima, and Cucamonga. A Verdugo Mountain summit is called Tongva Peak, and the Gabrielino Trail is in the Angeles National Forest.

## SEX, RELATIONSHIPS, and FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

Dear Neighbors:

**Are you the parent of a 13-to-16-year-old?** Have you been seeking a comfortable, yet authoritative, structured, and intelligent approach to educating your teen about sex, relationships, and family life?

Consider enrolling your teen and yourself in the "**SHAPE II**" course (**Sharing Healthy Adolescent and Parent Experiences**) sponsored by **Camp Fire USA**. Camp Fire USA is a non-profit non-sectarian youth service group that has been "Helping Parents talk 'THE Talk' for over a decade." A class is forming for the Irvine area (a minimum number is needed before the class will be offered). As of now, it will be a co-ed class for parents and their teens ages 13-16.

Tentative time and place: University United Methodist Church, 18422 Culver, Irvine, 92612. The dates they have available are **August 2-30, 2005 (5 consecutive Tuesday nights)**. The time is tentatively set at 6 or 6:30pm and will be 2 hours a night.

We had a good experience with SHAPE when our college-aged daughter was younger. Our son is now 14, and we are trying to recruit other interested families. Please note: **this program requires joint parent and teen participation**; the kid can't just be dropped off. Also, the teens like it when their peers and acquaintances are also enrolled. To learn more, please contact us or Jennifer Barber of Camp Fire USA. LINKS: 1. **Shape II course syllabus:** <http://www.campfireoc.org/PDF/SHape%20II%20description%20of%20course%20content.pdf> 2. **Camp Fire USA Orange County Council:** <http://www.campfireoc.org/index.html>

CONTACT: Ken's e-mail: [chew@uci.edu](mailto:chew@uci.edu), Tricia's e-mail: [patriciacahill@cox.net](mailto:patriciacahill@cox.net). Jennifer Barber, MPH, Director of Family Life Education, Camp Fire USA, 14742 Plaza Drive, Suite 205, Tustin, CA 92780, (714) 838-9991 x 27, E-mail: [jennifer@campfireusa.oc.org](mailto:jennifer@campfireusa.oc.org)  
-Ken Chew and Tricia Cahill

## THURSDAYS IN JULY AT UCI

UCI Summer Session invites the University Hills community to enjoy the new free film series at UCI Campus, every Thursday at 7p.m. during the month of July. All films will be screened at the Humanities Instructional Building (HIB) 100. For info call: 949.824.6494. Open to the general public. No RSVP required. Commentary + chat + free refreshments!

Our premier series "Unruly Frames & Fantastic Visions" is programmed by James Leo Cahill.

**July 7:** *Peau D'âne (Donkey Skin)*; Jacques Demy, France, 1970, 100 minutes, subtitled

This rarely screened adaptation of Charles Perrault's fairy tale stars Catherine Deneuve (*Umbrellas of Cherbourg*) as a princess forced to live as a malodorous scullion in order to find her true love.

**July 14:** *Careful*; Guy Maddin, Canada, 1992, 100 minutes

Murderous desires, thwarted passions, and blind ghosts torment three brothers in the 19th century Canadian-Alpine village of Tolzbad, where even the smallest noise threatens to set off a massive avalanche.

**July 21:** *Beaver Trilogy (plus Heavy Metal Parking Lot)*; Trent Harris, USA, 1979-1985, 83 minutes

A chance meeting in a parking lot changes two lives forever when an outcast teenager approaches a Salt Lake City news cameraman

testing out a video camera.

**July 28:** *Otesánek (Little Otik)*; Jan Svankmajer, Czech Republic, 2000, 127 minutes, subtitled  
All that she wants is a baby, but infertility plagues Karel and Bozena. Their prayers seem to be miraculously answered when Karel carves a child from a tree root and Bozena's intense maternal desires bring it to life.