

JULY 2003

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

<http://www.uhills.org/>

Editors: Lauri Barwick and
Nina Macdonald

Changes in Newsletter Format

In the interest of saving space and money, we are making some changes in the Newsletter format. Starting with this month's Newsletter, the length of each month's Newsletter will be kept to 8 pages as often as possible. In order to be able to do this, the margins have been reduced, and, when necessary, the font size will be slightly reduced. The Classified Ads have also undergone a formatting change. Effective this month, the length of ads submitted must be no more than 210 characters. New ads will appear in the printed Newsletter only one month. For the remainder of their lifetime, they will appear only on the web site. On-going ads will also appear only on the web site, except for the first month of submission. Newsletter ads may only be submitted on paper, or on the web site and **not** by email. If you have any questions about these changes, please contact either Lauri Barwick at 854-5684, laurirb@earthlink.net, or Nina Macdonald at 856-2592, ahm@aris.ss.uci.edu.

---Lauri Barwick, Newsletter Editor

HRB MINUTES - Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Present: Aileen Anderson, Jeffrey Beckwith, Brian Cummings, Isabel De Figueiredo, Rachel Gamby, Shirley Palley, Michele Walot, Andrew Herndon, Ron Reid.

REPORT ON OPERATIONS:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD REPORT was reviewed and discussed briefly. HRB requested that ICHA Management Community Development reports be printed in the newsletter separately from the HRB minutes.

OLD BUSINESS:

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEWS: Update on Dickens architectural review: The adjacent residents contesting the addition have not responded to ICHA Management. No significant additional concerns have arisen in verbal communications. Working drawings will soon be completed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Dog Park: On June 2 the entire HRB met with representatives from Residents for Responsible Planning (RRP) to hear their views concerning the trial dog park in Vista Bonita Park. Dana Aswad was spokesperson for the RRP during the meeting. The following points will be included in a letter the HRB will send to Dana Aswad:

- The HRB appreciated the care with which the RRP provided the HRB with an agenda ahead of time, and the coherence and detail of the presentation.
- The HRB welcome the RRP's interest in joining the HRB in campaigning ICHA to speed up the process of obtaining the ground lease for additional land on the periphery of University Hills.
- The HRB have agreed to the RRP request for a 6-month delay in the implementation of a Dog Run in Vista Bonita Bowl to pursue acquisition of an alternative site. Should this site not materialize within this time frame, however, we would revisit the possibility of locating a Dog Run in the Vista Bonita Bowl and any alternate sites available at that time.
- The HRB are in the process of making the minutes of both meetings—the community meeting on March 10 and the closed meeting on June 2—available to whoever may wish to access them, in the ICHA management office. They will be available by the end of June.

Parking and Traffic: On June 2 Aileen Anderson and Jeff Beckwith met with Richard Demerjian of Campus & Environmental Planning and to Mike Delo of Parking and Transportation to discuss UCI planning that impacts University Hills. Specifically discussed were:

- Parking Lot G – issues and the current UCI/University Hills plans for this space. It is anticipated that lot G will only be in existence for another year, because this space has been added to University Hills/ICHA to be used for additional apartments to meet the expanding needs of the community. Construction is planned to begin in 2004.

Meanwhile, to limit the impact of this lot on adjacent University Hills residents Parking and Transportation will, as soon as possible, install a perimeter fence to prevent access after lot closure in the evening. When the lot is in use during the academic year, a Parking and Transportation attendant will be present to prevent vehicles from entering after 5:30pm, and

will remain at lot G until either all cars are gone or 11:00pm, at which time the bollards will be put in place and locked to close the lot regardless of whether all cars are gone or not. In the meantime, lot G will close Friday June 13th and is not scheduled to re-open for general use until the beginning of Fall quarter. Given the short future for lot G, it was agreed that an investment in landscaping would not be a good use of funds. The possibility that weeds can be better kept in check for the remaining existence of lot G will be explored. Regarding weekend use of lot G for vehicle training courses, the historical record shows approximately 4-8 dates during the academic year on which these activities are scheduled to take place. Mike Delo will confirm a schedule for these activities in advance, and the HRB will publish them in the University Hills newsletter to ensure that residents are aware of them and can plan accordingly. These activities will be restricted to Saturdays, will not exceed this frequency, and will not encroach on early morning or evening hours. At all other times lot G will be closed on the weekends.

- Southern Radial issues – impact of the planned closure of the Gabrielino/East Peltason intersection. This plan currently makes Russell an egress/exit from University Hills. Consequently Murasaki would become the longest, narrowest, and most heavily populated thoroughfare in University Hills. Traffic from Montessori school and the planned addition of apartments at lot G (across from Montessori) are anticipated to contribute to congestion at the Murasaki/Russell intersection. Suggested potential solutions/mitigations were requested and will be discussed at a follow up meeting (below).
- Pedestrian bridge from University Hills across East Peltason to the campus – Several cases of pedestrians having close encounters with cars have been brought to the HRB's notice recently. Because traffic on East Peltason will increase even more the HRB requested the campus consider building a pedestrian bridge, similar to the one from campus to Palo Verde. UCI was receptive to this idea and potential locations (e.g. the current pedestrian crossing at the Engineering Gateway) were discussed.
- A follow-up meeting with Campus & Environmental Planning and Parking and Transportation is scheduled for June 19th. Please contact Aileen Anderson (aja@uciledu) or Jeff Beckwith (beckwith@uci.edu) if you would be willing to participate in a sub-committee of HRB members and residents addressing these and related issues.

Pools: On June 3 Rachel Gamby met with ICHA Management to discuss the pool heating schedule for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. The proposed plan was based on input Rachel has received from pool interested University Hills residents. Please contact Rachel at rgamby@cox.net if you have feedback about this plan:

Proposed Pool Heating Schedule for 2003-2004 Fiscal Year

- July 1, 2003 through until the end of Thanksgiving weekend - all three pools (and hot tubs) will be heated.
- Between Thanksgiving weekend and the beginning of the School Christmas/New Year break, between Christmas/New Year break and the School Spring break, and between Spring break and Memorial Day weekend - only the Los Trancos pool (and its hot tub) would be heated full-time. The Urey and Gabrielino pools will not be heated. Their hot tubs will only be heated from 12:00 noon each Friday through the weekends.
- During the Christmas/New Year break (December 20 to January 11) and during Spring break (March 27 to April 18) - all 3 pools and all 3 hot tubs would be heated full-time.
- Memorial Day weekend through June 30, 2004 - all three pools (and hot tubs) will be heated.

In summary this means that the largest pool and its hot tub will be heated all year, and that both the other pools will also be heated for the six warmest months of the year and during peak family use periods at other times of year. In the event of high gas prices, to prevent running over the budgeted \$28,000 for pool heating, the first cut back would be to cease to heat the Gabrielino and Urey hot tubs on weekends. If this cutback is insufficient, then heating of the Gabrielino or Urey pools (or both) during Spring Break would be reconsidered.

The finalized schedule will be posted on the web site and on the bulletin boards at each of the pools. In the event of a cut back, signs would be posted at each of the pools, the list serve would be notified and the newsletter would note the change (though that may be seen after the implementation of the change.)

Other Pool News

- A new shower water heater for the Los Trancos pool is being researched by ICHA.
- ICHA may install a third lap lane divider in the Los Trancos pool during the winter months (between Thanksgiving and Memorial Day weekends). It would be removed during the Christmas/New Year and Spring breaks.

REVIEW OF NEWSLETTER COSTS AND DISTRIBUTION:

The suggestion that the newsletter be circulated only electronically was discussed. The primary arguments for switching to electronic delivery are to save the cost of printing and mailing and to save paper. The arguments for continuing printing the newsletter and mailing it are:

- Not everyone in University Hills has a computer or an email account at home, and some of those who do are not comfortable enough with the technology for it to be wise for it to be the only means of accessing the newsletter.

- Switching to electronic delivery for those who want it and mail delivery for others would be impractical – either costly having someone tracking how each resident wants the newsletter delivered, or the addition of an unreasonable additional burden for the volunteers who produce the newsletter.

Given that the newsletter is the sole means of sharing community information it was decided that mailing it should continue, but that attempts to reduce the cost of the newsletter will be made. Currently the monthly costs are: \$970 + postage for 16 pages, \$775 + postage for 12 pages, \$555 + postage for 8 pages, and \$495 + postage for 6 pages. A number of means of reducing the number of pages in the newsletter were discussed. It was agreed that a few HRB members will meet with Lauri Barwick and Nina Macdonald (the two volunteers who produce the newsletter) and decide in consultation with them how to reduce the size of the newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS:

COMPLAINT ABOUT VIRGIL COURT PROPERTY: At the request of the HRB, ICHA Management will send a letter to Virgil resident requesting a landscape plan and a painting schedule for the home.

GABRIELINO FIELDS: ICHA Management reported that graduate and undergraduate students have been monopolizing the facilities on occasion, and are sometimes not recognizing reservations made by others. The HRB requested that ICHA Management approach the Campus and request that the license it has to use the Gabrielino recreation area be converted into an addition to the ICHA ground lease. The timing of this is logical given that the area will soon be almost surrounded by University Hills' houses and students have alternative facilities available now that the Recreation Center has been built. ICHA Management advised that this process will take time.

BASKETBALL HOOPS AND SKATEBOARD FACILITIES IN CUL DE SACS: There has been a complaint about basketball hoops and skateboard facilities being left permanently in cul de sacs and other public right of way areas and about the noise from their continual use. The HRB would like to remind residents that when they are not in use such facilities should be moved off the street as they create a liability and turning areas in cul de sacs must be left clear for emergency vehicles. Please be considerate of your neighbors regarding the hours and duration of usage. Residents who have concerns with these facilities are encouraged to speak directly with their neighbors and work out acceptable times for their use.

---- Rachel Gamby, HRB

Participate in Japanese/American Youth Exchange Program

UCI EXTENSION presents a SPECIAL 25% UCI DISCOUNT for the Japanese/American Youth Exchange Program which begins July 20th and runs for three weeks for youth ages 13 - 16 years of age. The Full program includes daily Japanese language classes during the weekday mornings with activities and field trips planned for the afternoons and on weekends (e.g. Disneyland, Knott's, Laguna Beach, sports, the Japanese/American Museum, etc.) American students are "buddied" up with the Japanese students during the activities portion of the program and enjoy these fun and educational activities while learning about each other's culture. In addition, it's a great way for kids to develop their leadership skills and make new friends around the globe!

The special "UCI ONLY" 25% DISCOUNT will be offered to the families of faculty and staff members (including UCIMC staff). The FULL PROGRAM (Regularly \$600) will be offered at the 25% discount, or \$450. The ACTIVITIES ONLY portion of the program (normally \$300) will be offered at \$225. For a calendar and further information, please contact Michelle Ryan at 824-5681 or <maryan@uci.edu>

Attention Dog Owners-

Please remember that dogs are not legally allowed off leash even in the nature preserve or wild areas and all droppings should be picked up. Even if your dog is usually friendly and well behaved, others worry that dog interactions are not predictable and vets are very expensive!!!! Thanks for being considerate.

University Club Events

The UCI University Club will be having a members and guests Patriotic Barbecue on Friday, July 11 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. They will have LIVE ENTERTAINMENT at this event.

They are also featuring a Friday Happy Hour on July 25, August 29, and September 12 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Anyone and everyone is invited, you do not have to be a member. There will also be live entertainment at these events. If anyone is interested in membership at the UCI University Club, please call (949) 824-6400.