

## Next Board Meeting

Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>,  
2014  
7:00 P.M. at  
TURTLE ROCK  
COMMUNITY PARK  
1 Sunnyhill Drive  
Irvine, CA

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## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Some neighbors and I were talking about earthquakes the other day and began to wonder about earthquake insurance. Our HOA does carry earthquake insurance - \$10,000,000. But the insurance has a 10% deductible. So if we had earthquake damage to our buildings of \$1,500,000, the insurance would pick up anything over the 10% deductible or over \$1,000,000. We would have to pay for the first \$1,000,000. With 165 owners, we could be assessed just under \$7,000 each. This would take care of the buildings.

There is earthquake loss assessment insurance available from your insurance company. This earthquake loss insurance can also be written to cover losses to the improvements you have made, to your personal property, and to cover expenses you may incur if you cannot live in your home while repairs are being made. When I checked with my agent, I found that my regular homeowners insurance would not cover me if the losses were from earthquakes. You may want to talk to your agent and see that you have the coverage you want.

Our new security company has been patrolling our property and has had a couple of cars towed. Please be sure that you are parking in your garage or in parking areas and not on your entryway drive or on any of our streets. **ALL OF OUR STREETS ARE FIRE LANES AND PARKING IS NOT PERMITTED.**

School is back in session and the kids are out and about. Watch for them when you drive.

For the Board,  
Leslie Barnebey

## Board of Directors \_\_\_\_\_

- President Leslie Barnebey
- Vice President Jim Malina
- Secretary Joyce Gwidt
- Treasurer Dave Anduri
- Director at Large Bob Harris

## Management Company \_\_\_\_\_



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Vistas Website: Please visit [www.trvista.org](http://www.trvista.org)/[www.turtlerockvista.org](http://www.turtlerockvista.org) for complete meeting minutes, back issues of the newsletter, and a lot of other wonderful information.

**DEADLINE for submissions to the November newsletter -  
Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**

## Editor's Note

Autumn is upon us! That means that the days are shorter. While the temperatures are perfect for nice, long walks, please use extra caution to be seen by drivers. More on that on page 5.

As always, unless otherwise stated, the responsibility for all articles lies with me, Sue Suesada.

Sue Suesada (mchanglegs@cox.net)

## News and Announcements

### Parking Violation - It Can Get VERY Expensive!

The new security company has begun monitoring the streets and the pool area for illegal parking and other offenses. Please remember to park your cars where they belong and refer to the Pool Rules that are posted outside the pool area and comply with them.

Parking violations can get VERY expensive. If you're caught parked in a no-parking area (for example, the apron in front of your unit), you will first receive a warning. Second offense will cost you \$75, third offense \$100, and fourth offense \$150.

But it really isn't about the fines, is it? Adhering to the rules is an important part of living in an HOA-controlled community like ours. Please be respectful of the rules and other homeowners.

### Trash Collection Schedule

It is rather unsightly to see trash bins left out for days. Please remember that in our area, trash is collected on Thursday. When the holiday falls on a weekday, residential collection is delayed one day for the remainder of the week. If a holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, there are NO delays.



There are only SIX holidays where trash collection is delayed by one day: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. That means that for the rest of the year, we need to remember to take the trash out THE DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING and THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY.

If you ever get confused, please visit <http://www.wm.com/location/california/orange-county/areas/holiday-schedule.jsp> or call 714-558-7761 to confirm. Or better yet, learn from a trusted neighbor. We happen to have a wonderful neighbor that knows EXACTLY when trash is collected. If we take our trash bins out and don't see theirs, we KNOW we got the dates wrong. Thank you, Ed and Marilyn!

Ken's Korner

# Sunshine, Sunshine, Sunshine

By Ken Garrison

17 Valley View



Those signs gave a hint last month -- you know, the ones that were hung on the wire fencing that partitioned off a part of University High's parking lot. You remember the drift of their message: "Reno Solar," "Sun Power For Our Schools," and "Sun Edison." Those signs and the construction that was going on left me with my own speculation about what was really happening. Fortunately, my curiosity was not satisfied by just guessing at what the whole solar story might be. So to get some answers, it was first off to John Pearson, the principal at University High School, and ultimately an introduction to Mark Sontag over at Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) for the full details. Mark, it turns out, coordinates the math and science programs for the District, but also "oversees" what he calls the solar project.

Well, as is usually the case when you start tracking a story, it goes back further in time than the current event that caused your inquiry - and nothing is ever as simple as you initially expected. As Mark began rolling out the Uni Hi parking lot story, you'll see what I mean.

First of all, the IUSD *Solar Program* is not something that's exactly new. The program has been going on for four years or so, and there are currently about 25 different school sites where solar panels in some form are installed. Some are carport solar setups like the one just completed at University (Stonegate Elementary School and Woodbury Elementary School have similar installations that became operational this past summer). The remainder are either rooftop solar panel configurations or solar carports (just for your information, Uni now has both rooftop and carport solar units).

Before going further, let's take just a moment to talk about what these solar panels are and how they work. You can relax; my explanation will not be technically deep or complicated!! So be brave and follow along with me. There are all sorts of exotic materials and advanced manufacturing techniques involved in producing *solar panels*. Those panels can be thought of physically as sort of sheets of glass -- but also embedded in these sheet panels are a pattern of solar cells. These cells generate electrical power by converting sunlight (shining down on the panel) into direct current electricity. Magic you might say. Nope, that conversion of sunlight to electricity using these solar cells is scientifically called the *photovoltaic (PV) effect*. It follows, you can see, that tying together a large array of photovoltaic (PV) cells and panels becomes a PV System. By organizing all the cells and in turn the solar panels, you are getting the production of electricity to a scale that you have some electrical impact. And that's what has happened at Uni High and throughout the IUSD solar system.

Electricity produced is used by the school site. Any excess power produced is piped off to the Southern California Edison electrical grid. The value of electricity produced by the IUSD installations is metered by the school's solar system and accounted for by SCE as a credit to IUSD's total monthly electrical bill. Further, in negotiating the deal with Sun Edison (the owner of the solar installations), the District has locked in an agreement that includes limiting Sun Edison's annual kilowatt rate for electricity increases to a maximum of 3% (they've been averaging 4.5% from SCE in the past).

So if you're wondering what generating this solar electricity means in terms of reducing IUSD service charges from Southern Cal Edison -- well it means big bucks. Mark Sontag figures the schools have already achieved around \$600,000 in avoided costs over the first four years of the program. He thinks that figure could grow to \$10,000,000 district-wide over 20 years. Turn your imagination loose on what that can mean for education programs and their avoided out-of-pocket costs.

From the beginning, IUSD has approached the Solar Program from three long range perspectives:

- As a Teaching Opportunity: Educating youngsters as to all forms of renewable energy (solar, wind, geothermal, hydroelectric, etc.). IUSD now has a teaching module for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders that covers the understanding, benefits and challenges of all renewable energy alternatives.
- The environmental benefits of clean and safe solar energy for our community.
- The potential savings and impact on districtwide budgets that can result from a solar program.

Looking at the *Solar Program* from the standpoint of our schools it looks like a welcome and winning proposition.



## Let's Get Outside: Exploring the Local Trails

With cooler temperatures and crisp air, autumn is a great time to get out and explore our local trails. Our community website has an archive of over 20 of them (written by yours truly) at [www.trvista.org](http://www.trvista.org) under Community/Trails (please note that Hike 13 has now become obsolete). At this time of the year, I personally recommend Hike 5 (French Hill) and Hike 3 (Stairway to Heaven to Trashcan Hill) to take in the view of the gorgeous mountains!

However, days have definitely gotten shorter, and the trend will continue until winter solstice on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Please wear high-visibility clothing (reflective vest, flashing LED light, etc.) and stay on the sidewalks. It is your responsibility as a walker to make yourself visible to drivers and to exercise safety precautions.



### **Let's Get Outside: Bommer Canyon Wilderness Access Day**

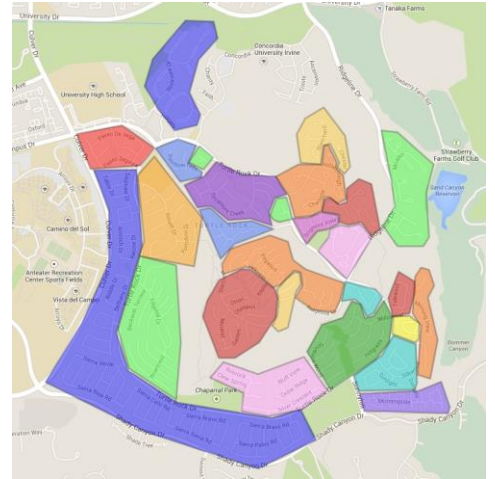
**Date and Time: Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Location: Bommer Canyon Trailhead (between Sunnyhill Drive and Bonita Canyon Rd. on Shady Canyon Rd.)**

Trail users are allowed to enter the Irvine "guided program only" preserve trails up to one hour prior to closing time and no later. Park closes at 2 pm. Entrance to the trails ends at 1 pm. Please note that dogs are not permitted. Call 714-508-4764 with questions and for more information.

# Getting to Know - the Turtle Rock Village

Turtle Rock Village comprises 23 communities (Broadmoor, Campus View, Concordia, Crest Akins, Crest, Glen Garden, Glen Patio, Glen Townhomes, Highlands Garden, Highlands, Highlands Townhomes, Ridge Townhomes, Hills President, Turtle Rock Pointe, Ridge Garden, Ridge Townhomes, Ridge Townhomes, Ridge Townhomes, Summit Estates, Summit Gallery, Summit Regency, Summit Townhomes, Terrace President, and Vista) across approximately 3 square miles of land and is home to almost 11,000 people (that reside in 3,000+ homes). Our Vista community is bordered by Concordia to the east, Campus View to the west, and Glen Garden and Glen Townhomes to the south.



Its name derives from the turtle-shaped rocky outcropping in our community, which Gabrieleño Native American tribe still holds sacred to this date.

Along with Westpark, El Camino Real, University Park, and Walnut, it was one of the five original "villages" that formed the new city of Irvine in the late 1960's. There actually is a sculpture of a turtle in Turtle Rock Community Park to commemorate its founding in 1967.

Here are some random Turtle Rock facts by city-data.com: median household income in Turtle Rock in 2011 was \$102, 295; there are more females (5,084) than males (4,395); median ages of males and females are 39.8 years and 44.5 years, respectively; percentage of attached units of all units is 28%; average estimated value of attached houses in 2010 was \$724,865 (cf. detached houses \$888,923); and percentage of foreign born residents is 29.7%. The longest street in Turtle Rock is Turtle Rock Drive (4.15 miles), followed by Ridgeline Drive (1.85 miles).

Irvine Company publicly and proudly declares that Turtle Rock "remains one of the city of Irvine's most acclaimed and admired places" in Irvine 30 years after its inception. I personally don't think the rock resembles a turtle. To me, it looks more like a frog (at one point, Irvine Ranch farmers did call it "Frog Rock"). But I am grateful that we live in the beautiful community of Turtle Rock - and not Frog Rock!



## University High School: Football Game Schedule

In addition to the early morning/late afternoon traffic around University High School, it is important to remember that close to 3,000 spectators (and their vehicles) can cause a nasty traffic jam on the days Uni High has a home game. This season, there will be four more football games played at University High: October 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, and November 7<sup>th</sup>. Games are always played on Fridays. Each game starts at 7:00 p.m. and ends at 10:00 p.m.

Please remember to use extra caution driving through the area before and after the game on those dates.