



## **SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING**

7:00 p.m., January 2, 2013

Meeting Held at the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Department

Present: Mike Cohen, President; Mike Seiler, Vice-President; David Corcoran; Michael de la Rosa; Carol Freno; Susan Kopp; Tom Pocklington; Richard and Margie Pritchett,; Don Scovel; Judy Tieber, Jim Woodford; Ray Ymzon

Opening - Call to order, Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence to honor men and women in our armed forces, law enforcement, fire and safety.

Minutes – Minutes of the December meeting will be presented and considered at a subsequent meeting.

Treasurer's Report – This report is delayed due to the treasurer's illness.

Opportunity for Remarks from the Public – Susan Kopp asked about construction taking place at the Bonita Road – Rt. 805 intersection. Carol Freno explained that another strip mall is being built, like the one nearby.

Law Enforcement Reports – Representatives from CA Highway Patrol and Sheriff's office were not present.

### Report from Michael de la Rosa, Supervisor Cox's Office

*Outbuildings* – Michael de la Rosa said code enforcement relating to outbuildings was discussed at the recent Sweetwater Planning Group meeting, but he felt that SVCA was a better venue for the discussion. A large, unpermitted outbuilding in Bonita Highlands was mentioned, one that houses many vehicles. De la Rosa said that County Code Enforcement has taken no action since this particular outbuilding didn't seem to pose health or safety issues. A general discussion followed. A member expressed concern that gasoline was being stored, along with many vehicles, in this large outbuilding. De la Rosa proposed that a member or members of Code Enforcement attend the next SVCA meeting to add clarity to the information residents already have. Mike Cohen agreed that Pamela Elias and/or Steve Murray should be invited to the next meeting. Carol Freno said that some "granny flats" were constructed on lots in the Bonita area, lots only a quarter acre in size.

*Horses* – Judy Tieber, who boards horses on her land in the San Miguel area of Bonita, thanked the SVCA for its letter to the County, which asked for a County representative to

visit her property. At issue is the question of how many horses can be kept on five acres of land. De la Rosa said other factors will be considered in addition to the size of the Tiebers' property.

Standing Reports – Tom Pocklington made the following remarks:

On two occasions there were suspicious individuals passing through local neighborhoods. One man had a number of fliers to pass out, but Pocklington thought it odd that the man was going door-to-door on Christmas Day. He said he spoke with this person, explaining that people would be suspicious of him due to the number of recent burglaries. A deputy confronted the other man. Both men were photographed.

Pocklington spoke of a visit to his home by Julio Garcia, Sheriff's Office. Garcia told him there are fewer burglaries from homes and cars in our area now, compared to the larger number in November and early December.

Regarding the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Department: Later in 2013 its headquarters will be in a new, Rancho San Diego fire station. Mark Scott is now the head of Bonita Fire Department's Board. The department's Toys for Tots 2012 drive was very successful. Finally, Pocklington commended Bonita fire personnel for reading to children at the local library on Wednesdays.

Report from Jim Woodford, Sr. Patrol – Woodford has sent a written report to Liz Stonehouse.

Once again, Sr. Patrol volunteers have trained using defibrillator devices. In addition they used a new device that goes over the patient's face to provide oxygen. There was discussion about the location of defibrillators; these can be found at both local golf courses and the library, for example.

A "technology report" was presented by Mike Seiler. He made these comments about CFL light bulbs and LED bulbs: The LED bulbs are very expensive, but worth the money. The light they emit is much more pleasant than that provided by CFL's. The LED's don't contain mercury. They last a very long time. Finally, he said that LED bulbs can be used with dimmers, but a customer should check the package for this capability.

Old Business – A discussion followed about how SVCA might take action to improve the community and thereby help to make its presence known. Cohen mentioned steps taken by a civic association in Pt. Loma: The group arranged for utility boxes to be painted artistically. There were suggestions that SVCA do the same or plant trees or other plants to beautify our area. Cohen asked members to think about this issue between now and the next meeting, to suggest projects and where they might be implemented.

Round Table – Ray Ymzon spoke about plans to build a church at the Sweetwater Rd.- Quarry Rd. intersection. He said he is concerned about traffic, parking and potential accidents there once the church is constructed.

Adjournment – 7:55 p.m.

Submitted by Susan Kopp, substituting for Liz Stonehouse