

April, 2013  
Volume 21—No. 2



## *Springtime on Victoria Avenue* by Darleen DeMason

I grew up in the Midwest where spring is short-lived and most ornamental trees and shrubs flower relatively synchronously to signal spring's arrival. In comparison, spring's flowering season in Southern California is very long and starts in what Midwesterners think of as winter months – February and March. Victoria Avenue is 9 miles long and is completely landscaped in both the 30 ft. wide median and along the parkways on both sides. It is estimated that there are over 6000 trees, 1000 orange trees, 10,000 Ragged Robin roses and various other flowering shrubs and ground covers. The Avenue is divided into approximately ¼ mile blocks and the median of each is planted with one or two species of deciduous, flowering trees and/or shrubs. Each of these flowering species has a specific flowering period (month) during the long spring season in Riverside. My goal for this article was to identify which of the more showy flowering species are characteristic of each month and provide some pictures and locations on the Avenue.

February – Peak flowering for the saucer Magnolia (*Magnolia X soulangiana*) can be viewed in the Lorraine Small Garden to Central and between Gibson and Van Buren. The flowering peaches (*Prunus persica*) and nectarines (*Prunus persica/nucipersica*) are also in flower and can be seen between Adams and Gratton, Irving and Jackson, and Madison to Jefferson.

March – This is a really showy month on the Avenue. The redbuds (*Cercis occidentalis, C. canadensis*) can be seen in full flower between Arlington and Central and between Gibson and Jackson. Bridal Wreath Spirea (*Spiraea nipponica*) and White Angel's Trumpet (*Brugmansia candida*) also come into flower between Myers and Van Buren. The Ornamental Pears (*Pyrus*)

*Continues on page 6*

## *Letter from the Editor*

### **Inside this issue:**

<u>President's Corner</u>	2
<u>Washington Park Plan</u>	2
<u>Overlook Parkway and Victoria Avenue</u>	3
<u>Work day in the Lorraine Small Garden</u>	4
<u>Tree Pruning Tips for Homeowners</u>	5
<u>Contributors to VAF</u>	7

It is officially spring and spring initiates ideas of rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, and regrowth. Spring is the theme for this issue of Victoria AveNews. We have a new, updated format for the newsletter. We vigorously thank Marsha Loveridge who has graciously donated her time to typeset this newsletter for decades. This new format was selected from one of the templates provided in Microsoft Publisher and was “personalized” for our organization. This is my first attempt at using Publisher for our newsletter.

As indicated on the left, this newsletter provides information on a number of topics. I have written a light-hearted article about the sequence of springtime tree and shrub flowering on the Avenue (above) and provided a few personal pictures taken by my husband and me over the years. I also provided a summary of our recent workday in the Lorraine Small Garden (page 4). Exciting activities continue on the Avenue. In the President's Corner (page 2) Frank Heyming discusses some of these including renovation of Washington Park associated with

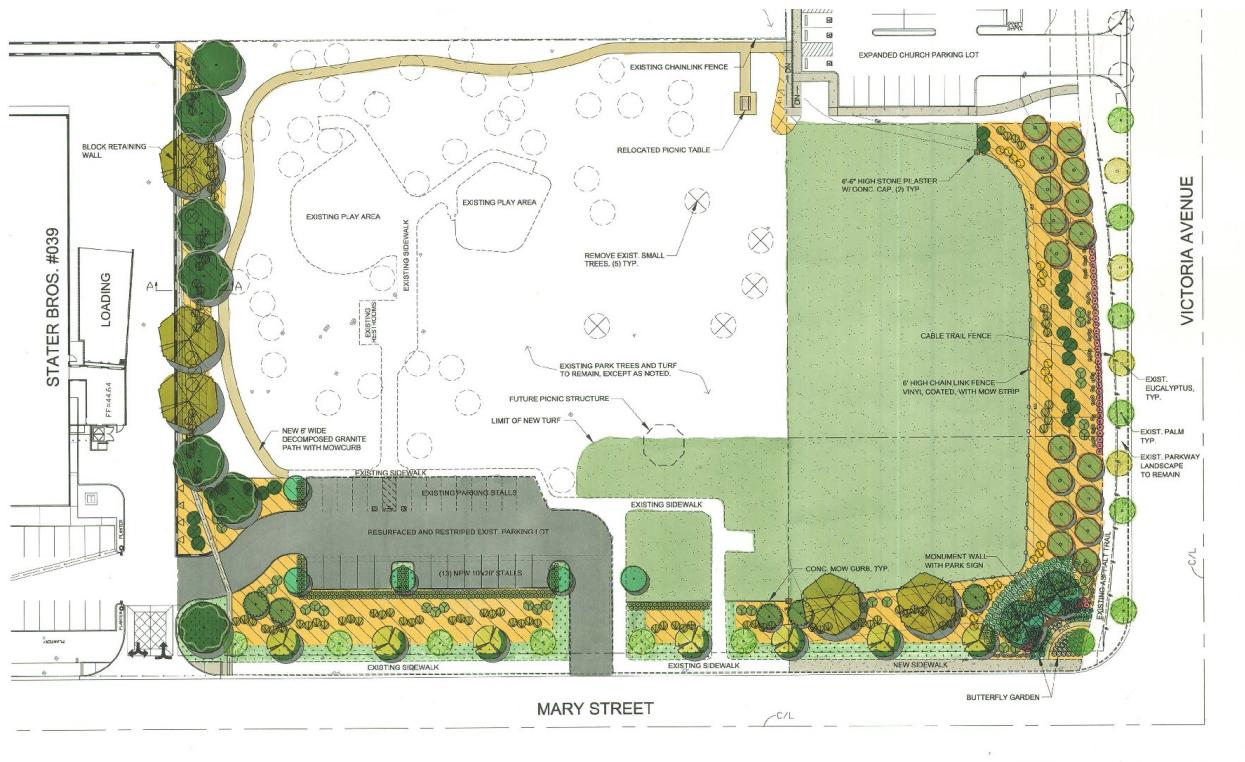
*Continued on page 3*

## President's Corner - Frank Heyming

Victoria Avenue Forever continues to work diligently to improve Victoria Avenue. You may have noticed recently that we had all the pathways in the Dr. Peter Lewis garden at the corner of Jane and Victoria redone with new “stabilized decomposed granite.” In addition to the attractive appearance, this will reduce puddling of irrigation water and reduce weeds growing in the pathways. Our workday in February greatly improved the appearance of the Lorraine Small Rose garden near Myrtle and Victoria ([see article on page 4](#)).

Recently VAF has been involved in the discussions concerning the expanded Stater Bros market into Washington Park. For those not familiar with this project, Stater Bros wants to expand their store at the corner of Mary and Lincoln. They negotiated with the City of Riverside to take over part of Washington Park along Mary Street for their expansion. In exchange they had to buy two times the land they took from the park. The land they purchased extended the park to the corner of Victoria Avenue. VAF was excited about the prospect of a new park entrance fronting Victoria Avenue. This vision unfortunately will not come to pass.

There is a change of elevation between the existing park and the new property fronting Victoria Avenue. Stater Bros will be filling this new lower part of the park with soil removed by their expansion. This will result in an approximately 5 foot landscaped embankment along Victoria Avenue with a 6 foot vinyl chain link fence at the top to help prevent balls from going down onto Victoria. While we understand the fundamentals of what is being done, the resulting design will not allow an eye level view from Victoria Avenue. Through the efforts of VAF, a level semicircular area has been set aside at the corner of Victoria and Mary. This area will be large enough to serve as a welcome place to relax, have a drink and invite people to access the larger park behind it.



**Draft Concept Plan for the new Washington Park.** “Stater Bros has undertaken extensive outreach to work with all stakeholders to create a balanced proposal in partnership with the Community and VAF. While VAF’s request to lower the grade was considered, the Community was much more supportive of extending the Park to create a level open play area. However, many of VAF’s comments were incorporated, e.g. - bike rack, future picnic shade structure for bike user staging, class II bikeway along both sides of Mary Street connecting the park to Victoria Avenue, drinking fountain and benches at the corner of Mary Street and Victoria Avenue., *Citrus* trees along Victoria Avenue, additional parking opportunities in the Church and Park..” Randy McDaniel, Principal Park Planner For a detailed view of the park design go to [www.victoriaavenue.org](http://www.victoriaavenue.org)

# *Overlook Parkway and its impact on Victoria Avenue*

*By Frank Heyming*

Victoria Avenue Forever has recently filed a 6 page response to the draft environmental impact report (EIR) studying Overlook Parkway. The city of Riverside had set aside funds to complete a study of the “Crystal View Terrace/ Green Orchard Place/ Overlook Parkway Project.” This report is the product of that study and evaluates four different scenarios:

1. Leave the existing gates at Crystal View Terrace and Green Orchard Place – do not complete the Overlook Parkway connection over the Alessandro arroyo.
2. Remove the gates – do not complete the connection.
3. Remove the gates and complete the connection.
4. Remove the gates, complete the connection and extend a new “Avenue C” from the terminus of Overlook Parkway at Washington Ave. to a point across Victoria Avenue midway between Washington Ave and Madison Street.

The executive summary of the draft EIR identifies scenario 2 – gates removed, no connection to Overlook Parkway and also a “No project alternative” as the environmentally superior alternatives. CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) guidelines say that if the “No project alternative” choice is determined to be the most environmentally superior project, then another choice among the alternatives evaluated must be identified as the environmen-

tally superior alternative. The draft EIR therefore identified scenario 1 as the superior alternative – gates closed to through traffic, no connection to Overlook Parkway.

We believe that the study did not look at all the alternatives to scenario 1. Why only gates? Why not remove a section of roadway, install boulders and landscaping or some other form of permanent barrier? Why not construct cul-de-sacs on Overlook Parkway at both encounters with the Alessandro arroyo? VAF also brought up many questions that were not addressed in the report, discussed apparent contradictions in the report, and suggested the possibility that incorrect measurement criteria were used. The bottom line though is that we agree with the findings of the report and would like the issue permanently settled.

Therefore, Victoria Avenue Forever wholeheartedly concurs with the conclusion that the project would have a significant impact on the environment. We hope the city’s Planning Commission and City Council accept this assessment and prepare an environmental impact report to that effect. In addition we propose that the City’s general plan be amended to delete the Overlook Parkway connection so that it will not be reconsidered again.

#### **City website for draft EIR**

#### **Env. Impact Report -**

<http://www.riversideca.gov/planning/eir.asp>

#### *Letter from the Editor—continued from page 1*

the proposed expansion of Stater Bros. on Mary Street. Frank also discusses (above) a major task that the Board undertook to respond to possible plans for Overlook Parkway. Undergrounding of the overhead utility wires continues between Maude and Washington. We are informed that it is progressing on time.

Finally, we have an article (page 5) from Board Member, and former Urban Forester for the City of Riverside, Dave Roger about tree trimming. For those of us who love trees and want to preserve their beauty and value, this is a very important issue. So many people are not aware of the fact that trees are living, breathing organisms as complex as the human body. It is personally painful for me to see trees abused. Take care of your trees and they will add continued value to your life.

If you have ideas about articles that you would like to see in this newsletter please feel free to contact me. Have a great spring and get out on the Avenue to enjoy the colors and smells.

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## **Workday at the Lorraine Small Rose Garden by Darleen DeMason**



**Above:** Former Judge, Bill Bailey and a Troup 8 Boy Scout shoveling mulch..

**Below:** Scouts rake out leaves.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, VAF partnered with Raincross Rose Society, Master Gardeners and Boy Scout Troup 8 to improve the Lorraine Small Rose Garden. The workday was organized by VAF Board Member, Kathy Swanson. The Lorraine Small Rose Garden was established in 1993 and is in the median at the northern end of the divided Avenue near the intersection with Myrtle. The garden was originally designed by VAF Board member Jim Montgomery and was funded entirely with private donations to honor Lorraine Small, a local garden writer and longtime advocate for the preservation of Victoria Avenue. Last year we cleaned up the garden and planted 121 new roses.

This year, we have had a beautiful day and the Saucer Magnolias (*Magnolia X soulangiana*) were in full bloom. 27 people showed up and worked for about 2.5 hours. Among those were Councilman Chris MacArthur and his wife Jolene, and retired judge and new VAF Board member, Bill Bailey. The group removed trash, leaves and dead roses, planted 62 new roses and spread 10 yards of mulch. As we worked, bicycle riders and people in cars cheered us on. The camaraderie was high and the results were beautiful! Rose Society members and Master Gardeners returned on March 16th to prune the roses. **Come by and enjoy the roses!**



**Left:** Councilman, Chris McArthur and Board Member Frank Yost work with Boy Scouts from Troop 8 to spread mulch throughout the Garden.

**Below:** Board Member Kathy Swanson works with Boy Scouts from Troop 8 to pick out locations for planting roses.

**Last work day of the year:  
Saturday, May 11, 9 AM  
Great American Cleanup  
Meet at Dr. Lewis Garden  
(Jane and Victoria)**



## Why a Certified Arborist? by Dave Roger

Spring is here! Do trees in your yard need pruning? Whom do you hire? This is always a tough question, no matter what type of work you need done. When you need to hire a contractor, how do you choose the right person?

I have had my share of good and not so good contractor's at my home. When it comes to trees however, I am especially picky. Probably because it is my profession: I am certified as both an Arborist and an Urban Forster.

I retired as the Urban Forester from the City of Riverside, and while I still prune small trees, it would be fatal for me to continue climbing trees at my age. So how do you choose someone? You have to rely on certification. The International Society of Arboriculture has a certification program for Arborists and Tree Trimmers. It requires experience in the field, a recommendation from someone certified in the profession and passing a comprehensive exam.

How tough can it be to trim a tree you ask and why pay for someone who is certified? A few examples come to mind. A client called once complaining that his Birch tree was not growing. I looked at the tree and discovered that the tips of the branches had all been cut back. Growth hormones in Birch trees are produced in the tips of the branches. So while the trimmer did a nice job of thinning out the Birch tree, he did not understand how trees grow. Then there is of course the clients who wondered why their Apricot tree was not producing fruit. Looking at the tree, I saw that the trimmer pruned off all the little, lateral fruiting spurs, not knowing that they are the source of flowers and fruit.

Lastly, when we prune off a branch from a tree it has an impact on the tree itself. Each branch has many functions,

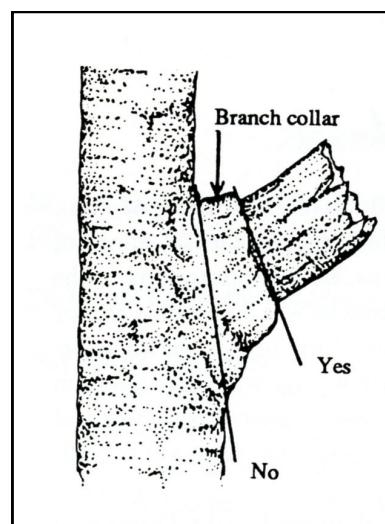
such as feeding the tree, stabilizing and shading other branches from sunburn to name a few. Improperly cutting or cutting at the wrong time of the year can lead to disease and insect problems. Once a branch is removed, the wound needs to heal. A proper cut along what is called the branch collar allows for healing (Fig. 1). Removing the branch collar or leaving a stub will prevent the wound from healing. Decay will occur and eventually the limb or tree will break or fall.

**Never, never** top a tree; there are lots of reasons why not (Fig. 2). A few of these are that the remaining branches will sunburn and blister. Think of shaving your head and then standing in the sun all day. Topping also results in the production of many new branch shoots that origin below the cut that are weakly attached and will eventually break off (Fig. 3). Lastly, topping cuts do not heal so infection sets in causing decay.

*[Continued on page 6](#)*

**Tree topping** is the practice of removing whole tops of trees or large branches and/or trunks from the tops of trees, leaving stubs or lateral branches that are too small to assume the role of a terminal leader. Other common names for the practice include **hat-racking, heading, rounding over, and tipping**.

"too many of our present day problems with trees are the direct result of this practice, which is generally a bad one." George E. Brown, author of *The Pruning of Trees, Shrubs and Conifers*. Timber Press.



**Figure 1.** Proper branch removal. Reproduced from the *Oregon Master Gardner Handbook*.



**Figure 2.** Topped Jacaranda tree in the Kaiser parking lot. The Doctors are Board Certified but the Arborists are not.



**Figure 3.** A tree's natural response to topping. As these branches enlarge, they will break off and become hazardous.

**Why a Certified Arborist? - continued from page 5**

Trees provide value to your property. In the Inland Empire, a large tree provides nearly \$3880 in benefits over its lifetime per the Pacific Southwest Research Station of the US Forest Service. To provide the best possible care for your trees; hire a Certified Arborist.

To find out more about Certification and/or to locate a Certified Arborist near you, go to the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (<http://www.wcisa.net/>) and click on Certification.

**Dave Roger**

Certified Arborist # WE- 0283 AUM

Certified Urban Forester # CA -115

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Or call (951) 389-1032**

**Additional Resources on Professional Tree Trimming:**

George E. Brown. 1996. *The Pruning of Trees, Shrubs, and Conifers*. Timber Press, Inc. Portland, OR.

<http://www.sunset.com/garden/garden-basics/pruning-mature-trees-00400000017781/>

<http://www.growingagreenerworld.com/tree-topping-what-you-dont-know-is-killing-your-trees/>

<http://www.ppdl.purdue.edu/ppdl/weeklypics/3-26-07.html>

<http://www.patrees.org/think-before-you-top>

<http://www.plantamnesty.org/stoptopping/5reasons.aspx>

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/SUL7.pdf>

<http://www.cityoftacoma.org/page.aspx?hid=14806>

[http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/~linda%20chalker-scott/horticultural%20myths\\_files/Myths/Tree%20topping.pdf](http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/~linda%20chalker-scott/horticultural%20myths_files/Myths/Tree%20topping.pdf)

**Springtime on Victoria Avenue—continued from page 1**

(*garryana*) between Mary and Washington are very showy, especially due to their large size. Although the Chinese Fringe trees (*Chionanthus retusus*) have very small white petals they are still showy between Gratton and Monroe and Tyler to Steward. Finally, the Pink Trumpet tree (*Handroanthus avellandae*) are spectacular between McAllister and Tyler.

April—The Ragged Robin roses draw attention in April all along the Avenue. The Horse chestnuts (*Aesculus 'Briotti'* carnea) between Jane and Mary are typically flowering this month. And the flowering crabapples (*Malus floribunda*) are in peak flower between John and McAllister.

If you missed any displays this year, make sure you catch them next year.



Flowering peach taken in February



Chinese Fringe trees taken in March



Redbuds taken in March

Left. Bridal Wreath Spirea in foreground and White Angle Trumpet behind.  
Taken in March.

## ***Contributions to Victoria Avenue Forever October 2012-March 2013***

### **Endowment Fund Contributions**

**Thank you** to all who contributed to Victoria Avenue in memory of, or in honor of, your loved ones. Your gifts will be used to help protect and care for Riverside's living legacy – Victoria Avenue. We want to make sure to acknowledge everyone. If your gift is not acknowledged in this issue of the AveNews, it will be in the next one.

Recently, the late **Dennis Timmons** was acknowledged with an outpouring of memorial gifts to Victoria Avenue Forever from Los Amigos Association, William & Rosemary Bailey, Margaret Fletcher, Jerry & Pat Kelley, Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Kovely, John & Joan Miller, John Mylne, Terry Mylne, Basil & Barbara Pafe, Walter & Betty Parks, Rosemarie Richardson, Martha Siegel, Betty Swoffer, and William & Evelyn Warren.

Also, donations in the memory of **Russell Walling** were made by Los Amigos Association, Margaret Fletcher, Kay Follett, Col. & Mrs. Kimmel, Clinton & Gerry Marr, Basil & Barbara Pafe, Rosemarie Richardson, Betty Swoffer, Holly Timmons and Sue Ward.

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Victoria Avenue Forever Board

In honor of Rusty Bailey's election as Mayor  
  
In memory of Art Miller  
In memory of Harry Nelson  
In memory of Juanita Wist Bullock  
For Bob and Sally Boots  
In memory of Dallas Jane Muller  
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*Last Work Day  
May 11, 9AM  
Jane and Victoria*

White Angle's Trumpet in March