

Kiosks on Victoria Avenue by Frank Heyming

As we reported to you in our [last newsletter](#), Victoria Avenue will now have three information kiosks. Kiosks are located at the corner of Myrtle and Victoria Avenue (Helen Hays Yeager Memorial Grove), and at the corner of Jane and Victoria Avenue (Dr. Lewis Garden). New information panels have recently been installed in these existing kiosks. The newest kiosk is located at the corner of La Sierra and Victoria Avenue. This kiosk structure was recently completed and is awaiting the production of the information panels. *Victoria Avenue Forever* volunteers prepared the site by uprooting and storing the existing roses (variety 'Home Run'). The landscape contractor for Victoria Avenue (Brickman Landscaping) donated the materials and labor for leveling a pad and a generous donor paid for the kiosk. The 'Home Run' roses will be replanted this month.

On Saturday, May 10, 2014 at 3:00 pm a dedication ceremony will take place at the Helen Hays Yeager Memorial Grove at the corner of Myrtle and Victoria. Mayor Rusty Bailey and councilman Mike Soubirous will make brief presentations. Please see the invitation on the back of this newsletter.

We anticipate dedicating the La Sierra kiosk at a future date.



Kiosk in Hays Yeager Memorial Grove

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The Metamorphosis of Washington Park and a new Butterfly Garden—by Randy McDaniel, Principal Park Planner for the City of Riverside

The newly renovated Washington Park has been given new life and is scheduled to emerge from its cocoon of construction fencing in May of 2014. The metamorphosis of Washington Park has taken shape over the years from before it was first developed in 1980 to the recent Stater Bros. Market renovation and expansion. Washington Park is now a part of Victoria Avenue and has turned into a park with more historical character.

The now 4.3 acre Washington Park site is bordered by Washington Elementary School, Pathway Christian Church, Historic Victoria Avenue, Mary St and Stater Bros. Market. While not part of the protected greenbelt, the park was once the site of a citrus grove and the home of Charles Montagu Dammers, referred to as "Riverside California's Butterfly Man" by Bill Wilkman in the Final Report prepared for Stater Bros Ltd. on February 7, 2012. Two previous newsletter articles ([July and November 2013](#)) covered the life of this historic Riverside figure.

Riverside's original 1979 developed master plan was designed to [Continued on page 2](#)

President's Corner—Darleen DeMason

Victoria Avenue Forever has been on a crazy roller coaster ride since the last newsletter. So many wonderful things have been happening for us and for Victoria Avenue. In the last newsletter I lamented the facts that our membership and income had dwindled recently and which necessitated a focus on increasing membership and donations. Your responses have been rapid, generous and tremendously heartwarming!!! We have literally doubled our membership in a 1 month period. Donation checks have clogged our post office box for trees, the Dammers Butterfly Garden, the Endowment Fund, an interpretive sign for the Snyder Garden, Memorials, especially for former *VAF* President, Marie Hempy, and for Commemorative trees. Love for Victoria Avenue is alive. We are proud to acknowledge all these contributions (Page 7). Thank you, thank you, and thank you.

We have been able to increase our visibility and touch more citizens at many events as well. We had a wonderful experience talking to attendees at the GrowRiverside Conference in February and we signed up some new members too (Page 4). One of our members invited us to have a table at the Old Riverside Foundation Home Tour on May 17th. We gratefully accepted and hope to see many of you there. Finally, a fundraising opportunity just “fell” into our laps when Tim Worthington, co-owner of Packinghouse Brewing Company invited us to partner with them for the

Riverside Airshow beer party (Page 6). Board member Kathy Swanson directed the planning and execution of this successful event.

Physical improvements have been continuing on the Avenue. Washington Park renovations are progressing rapidly at Mary Street and will include a new butterfly garden to remember Commander Charles M. Dammers who own the citrus grove at that site. *VAF* has been collaborating with Principle Park Planner, Randy McDaniel on the park and garden design (Page 1). The new information panels that Frank Heyming has been directing have been installed in the two existing kiosks (Jane & Mrytle Streets) and the new kiosk at La Sierra is almost finished (Page 1). You are invited to a dedication celebration at the HHY Memorial Grove on May 10th (see back page). Please join us and celebrate these successes.

We executed a successful workday in February by planting trees and sprucing up the Lorraine Small Rose Garden (Page 7). Our final workday will be the morning of May 10th in conjunction with Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful for the Great American Clean-up. We will spread mulch in the gardens at Jane and Harrison. Meet at Jane St at 9AM to participate (Page 7).

Enjoy your newsletter!

Continued from page 1—Washington Park Butterfly Garden

convey the citrus heritage theme and serve the surrounding neighborhood, including the major use area which was geared for family picnics; children play spaces and the like. The original plan also included a “bike rest stop” or, one might say, bike racks so you can stop and rest. It was anticipated that the park would function as a “trail head” for individual or group cycling enthusiasts wishing to enjoy the Roseanna Scott Memorial Bikeway Trail. [See the garden design on the page 3.](#)

Input from *Victoria Avenue Forever* has helped carry forward the original vision and Dammers’ legacy. Now, cyclists and walkers alike will be encouraged to stop at the newly created butterfly garden, located on the corner of Dammers’ property. The butterfly garden frames a new park sign and is meant to honor the many contributions of Commander Charles M. Dammers as a citizen scientist and insect illustrator. The small garden includes a resting place for trail users to get a drink of water, take a seat and enjoy the landscaping specifically planted to attract butterflies. The planting includes larval host and nectar plants as follows:

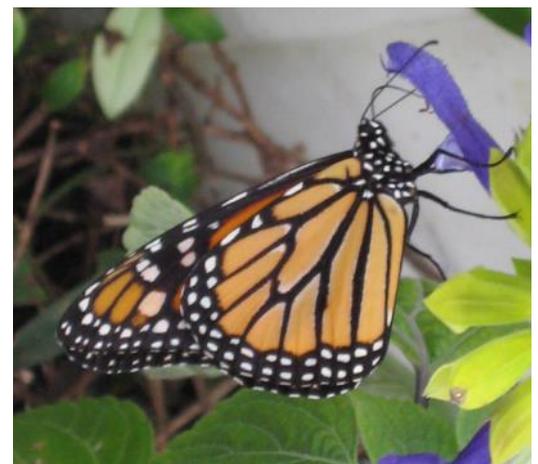
BUTTERFLY LARVAL HOST PLANTS & BUTTERFLIES ATTRACTED

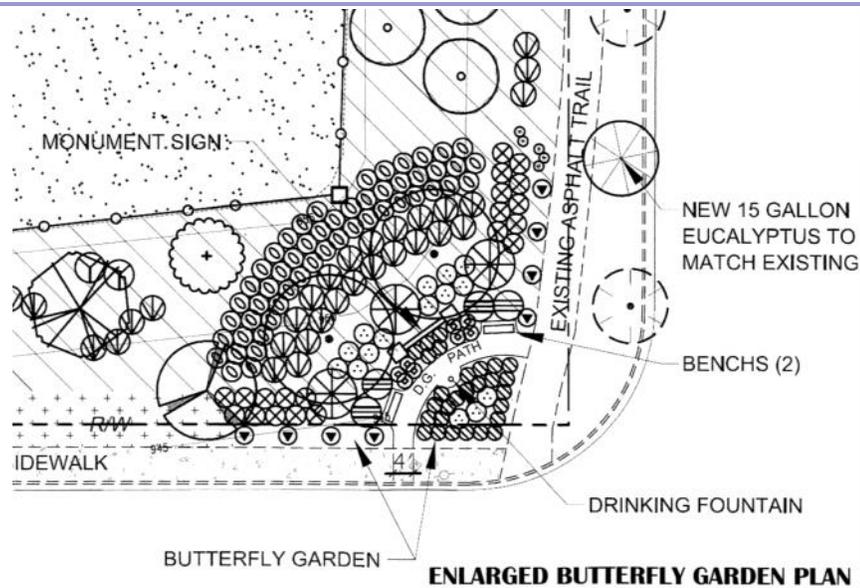
Citrus – Giant Swallowtail, Anise Swallowtail
 Wild Buckwheat – Acmon Blue, Gray Hairstreak, Painted Lady
 Mountain Lilac – Blues (e.g. marine Blue), Pale Swallowtail
 Wild Sunflower – Bordered Patch, Painted Lady, Gold Finches
 Milkweed – Monarch, Queen
 Cape plumbago – Marine Blue
 Blood Flower – Monarch

Left—Monarch butterfly (*Danacus plexippus*)

BUTTERFLY NECTAR PLANTS

Brittlebush, Buckwheat, Butterfly Bush, Cape Plumbago, Lantana, Mountain Marigold, Rosemary, Sage





Design of Dammers Butterfly Garden at the corner of Mary St and Victoria Avenue

Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly weed)—host to Monarch and Queen butterflies.

Irrigating Citrus—Water Quality by Tom Wilson, VAF Board member and citrus grower

In my last article (February 2014 AveNews) I discussed how important timing and amount of irrigation is for growing citrus. In this article I want to focus on water quality. Citrus trees are sensitive to salt content and concentration and therefore require high quality irrigation water for success. The term “salt” is a broad term and generally refers to various dissolved inorganic chemical constituents that have diverse effects upon the soil and the tree. Although overall salt levels matter, water quality is normally determined primarily by the specific types of salts that are present. For citrus, the most harmful salts are sodium, chloride, and boron.

Salts in the irrigation water are absorbed by the roots and taken up in the tree with the irrigation water. As water evaporates from the tree into the air, the salts are left behind and accumulate in the tree. Although plants have a limited ability to prevent toxic or unnecessary salts from entering the roots, high concentrations result in toxicity. Further, salts that are not absorbed by roots tend to build up in the soil surrounding the roots. This buildup in the soil is detrimental for two reasons: plant roots cannot prevent uptake, and it interferes with the roots’ ability to absorb water. Buildup in the soil must be reduced by “leaching” salts -- flushing the salts downward past the bottom of the root zone. Even the highest quality irrigation water requires leaching. If no irrigation water penetrates below the bottom of the root zone, the efficiency of water use will be high, but there will be severe salt buildup and damage to the tree.

Riverside is fortunate that salty irrigation water has not historically been a problem for the City’s Greenbelt. The traditional citrus districts typically have had good water, and from the early days the water source for the Gage Canal was recognized to be of high quality. In contrast, growers in Corona experienced difficulties in the early part of the last century when they imported water from wells south of Perris that had excessive salt levels and severely damaged orchards. As long as Riverside retains its current water sources, homeowners with citrus trees and citrus growers should be able to continue producing high quality fruit.

However, the issue of salty irrigation water has come up in recent years with proposals to use recycled water to irrigate local citrus. Last year the Riverside County Water Task Force, formed by Supervisor Marion Ashley, provided a valuable public service by examining this issue in depth. In a detailed 78 page report prepared for the Task Force, Dr. Stephen Grattan of U.C. Davis explained that recycled water is of lower quality than traditional sources, due to higher levels of boron, sodium, and chloride. Further, certain soil types in the Riverside area, such as Arlington Loam, a dominant soil type in the City’s Greenbelt, have restricting layers 1 to 3 feet below the surface. These restricting layers limit leaching and make recycled water unsuitable for citrus. For a summary of the Grattan report go to <http://www.riversidecfb.com/pdf/Magazine/jun131.pdf>

Continued on page 7

GrowRiverside: Citrus and Beyond! Conference Summary— by Frank Heyming

On March 19th and 20th the city of Riverside collaborated with “Seedstock” and many generous sponsors, in putting together the GrowRiverside: Citrus and Beyond conference. Seedstock is a social venture that fosters the development of sustainable local foods systems. Many thanks also go to councilman Chris McArthur and community development director, Al Zelinka, for all the effort they put into making this conference happen. The goal of the conference was to define opportunities for food production within the Riverside area, explore ways to sustainably increase local food in an economically viable manner, and develop practical steps to leverage the area’s rich agricultural assets.

The conference was held in the newly remodeled Riverside convention center. You might be asking, “Why the title, “citrus and beyond?” The “Cure Group” dedicated to transforming the future of agriculture in Riverside by revitalizing the Arlington Heights gave the following statistics: Currently, of the approximately 5000 acres in the greenbelt, 1600 acres are in citrus, 940 acres are in nurseries, 800 acres are residential, 867 acres are vacant, 70 acres are in farms, 400 acres are in the citrus park and the rest is in other uses. In addition, Mark Hoddle, director of the Center for Invasive Species at UC Riverside, spoke of the citrus psyllid and more specifically the HLB bacterium that has decimated the orange crop in Florida. We have had information on this looming threat in the [Sept. 2012 newsletter](#). So, the answer to the question “Why citrus and beyond?” is that only about 1/3 of the greenbelt is currently in orange production - with threat of disease, and 17% is currently vacant. So we need to think of farming endeavors beyond citrus.

Among the various topics covered at the conference were: The value and meaning of local agriculture; A look at the infrastructure needed to grow and support new farmers and ag entrepreneurs; How cities can create policies to incentivize and normalize urban and local agriculture; An exploration of the market for locally produced food; An exploration of various technologies from aquaponics to hydroponics as well as new business models enabling the development of economically sustainable small-scale farming; Funding the future of local agriculture; How the City’s land, water, energy and community resources can be leveraged; An examination of the economic viability of citrus in Riverside; How farmers can access land and how to attract new farmers and prospective entrepreneurs to the City.

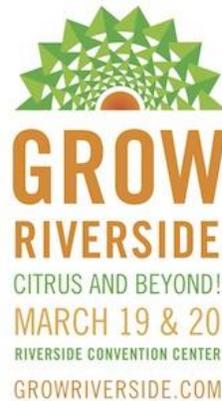
The city of Riverside has agricultural history, land, water, good soil and climate. However, as we learned in the conference these things by themselves won’t save the greenbelt. We need to create programs akin to “sharecropping” to incentivize young farmers to come back even though they might not have the immediate funds to purchase the land. The City of Riverside needs to explore all possible avenues to

assist farmers in making their farming venture economically feasible. We need to develop new disease resistant citrus varieties. We need to promote a “buy local food” mentality.

Victoria Avenue borders the greenbelt for almost its entire length. Naturally, *Victoria Avenue Forever* is very interested in land uses that preserve the beauty, history and character of the Avenue. This convention was a big step forward in generating ideas on how to keep the greenbelt green.



Above-Board members Susan McClintock and Darleen DeMason at the VAF table.



Victoria Avenue Forever set up a table to inform conference attendees about Victoria Avenue. Our brochures were also provided in the registration packets of all conference attendees. Many Board members took turns sitting at our table. The cost of this table was sponsored anonymously.



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Newsletter

Darleen DeMason, Editor
**Victoria Avenews is published
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info@victoriaavenue.org
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Contributions

February - March 2014

Thank you to all who contributed to *Victoria Avenue Forever*. Your gifts will be used to help protect and care for Riversides' living legacy – Victoria Avenue. We want to make sure to acknowledge every one!

General Contributions and for trees

John & Betty Addink, Ed & Judy Adkison, Richard & Lorraine Anderson, Kathleen Asper-Williams, William and Rosemary Bailey, Dave & Peggy Barnhart, Mary F. Bean, Bob Bullock, Robert Buster & Mary Humbolt, Art & Joanne Crowley, Jan & Nancy Davidian, Cynthia Dupree, Hazel Evensen, Joseph & Josephine Guzzetta, Dick Haynes, Frank & Lucy Heyming, Donald & Joan Irving, Robert & Rita Jabs, Gene & Karen Johnson, Thomas & Charlotte Johnson, Tom & Sue Jones, William & Joy Junkert, Robert & Anita Kimmel, Robert & Sue Krieger, Jane Lamar, Dorothy Leeper, Roger & Peggy Luebs, Marion McCarthy, John & Joan Miller, Linda Mullen, William O'Neill, Teri Oldknow, Walter & Betty Parks, Malcolm & Charis Pond, Michael & Georgie Raftery, Teresa Reed, James & Barbara Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. C.P. Rowlands, Rodolfo & Irene Ruibal, Anthony Serra, Susan & Rich Simonin, Roger & Julie Slininger, Anne Stalder, Marjorie Steel, Bill & Rene Sturman, Dwight Tate, Richard Taylor, Ron & LeAn Teunissen, William & Terre Thomas, Janet Townsend, Ted Weggeland, Charles & Pati Weir, Don & Mildred White, and Everett & Lori Yates

Donations to the Dammers Butterfly Garden

Jim & Barbara DeLorenzo, Priscilla Doshier, Gene & Nadine Fahlbusch, Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Laney, Paul & Elayne Lohr, Morris Mendoza, Malcolm & Charis Pond, Kenneth & Ruth Unrath, and Charles & Pati Weir

Donations to the Endowment Fund

Tad & Marilyn Dunagan, John & Janet Gless, John & Carol Matulich, and Everett & Lori Yates

Donations for an Interpretive sign at Snyder Garden

Thomas & Charlotte Johnson, Susan McClintock and Daniel Straus

Donations for Kiosks or Kiosk upgrades

Brickman Landscaping, William Gardner, and Charles & Pati Weir

Memorial Contributions

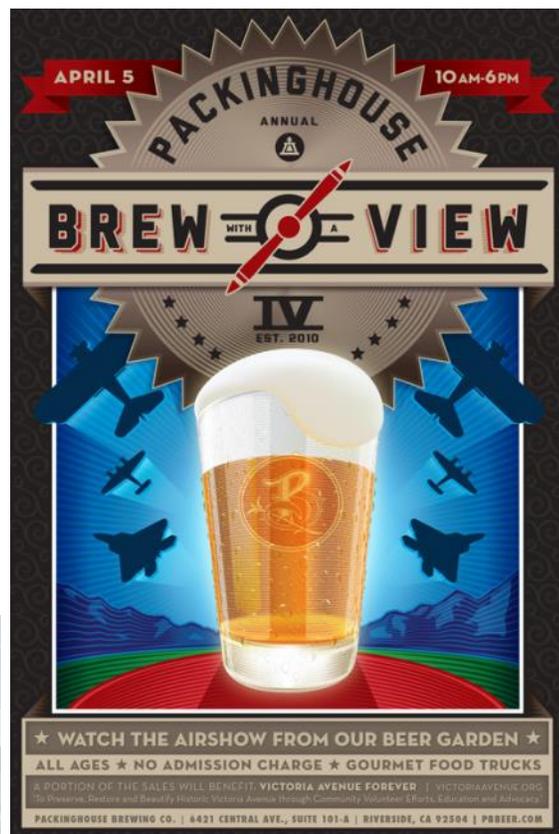
John Beal	In memory of Barbara Beal
Marie Cotter	In memory of Dorothy Dales
Tad & Marilyn Dunagan	In memory of John Gabbert
John & Kristie Gebhardt	In memory of Warren W. Fauth
Eileen Gerken	In memory of Mrs. Tadeusz Papis
Evelyn Guin	In memory of Warner Kreutzberg
Katherine Hyett	In memory of Edward 'Ned' Willis
William & Joy Junkert	In memory of Marie Hempy
Mark & Sandra Lawrence	In memory of Micky Hadley
Gayle Pope Morrison	In memory of Lilla Irving Lewis
The Rohr Family	In memory of Marie Hempy
Rex & Irene Salyer	In memory of Marie Hempy

Commemorative Tree Donations

Pam Clark	In memory of Fred Clark
Ronda Marquis	In memory of Ruth Cox
Art & Joanne Crowley	In memory of Rosanna & Bill Scott
Ms Frankie Dietzman	In honor of Emily Noelle Dietzman
Ms Frankie Dietzman	In honor of Jackson Ryan Tom
Donald Irving	In memory of Joan Irving
Doris Rhine	In memory of Dr. J. Keith Oddson

“Pour me another round”—*Brew with a View* Fundraising Event—by Kathy Swanson

On April 5th *Victoria Avenue Forever* partnered with [Packinghouse Brewing Co.](#) to hold a Beer Garden fund raiser in conjunction with the Annual Air Show at the Riverside Airport. The Packinghouse Brewery has an unobstructed view of the runway, so, it was a great place to watch the Air Show and drink beer. We also had 3 Gourmet food trucks. We “sold” beer and raffle tickets for opportunity drawings. Many local merchants along with *VAF* members donated items for the drawings. We made \$1750 from the beer sales and \$832 from the drawings for a net profit of approximately \$2000. It was a great day and the weather was beautiful. We could not of had better weather if we had put in an order. We got the opportunity to introduce hundreds of people to *VAF* who had never heard of us. We gave away free *VAF* t-shirts to each person who signed up as a new member. It was a fun day!



Above—event flyer. Left—Our set-up with prizes for drawings under blue tent. Lower Left—Kathy and Richard Swanson tasting the ‘Belltower Blond’ beer with Packinghouse employee. Below—Richard pouring “another round” for Board member, Jim Dudek.

Events at February Workday—by Darleen DeMason

On February 22, VAF volunteers planted eight ‘Crape Myrtle’ trees on the parkway between Washington and Mary Streets, planted 22 replacement roses in the Lorraine Small Rose Garden and mulched that garden. Volunteers present were VAF Board members, VAF members (Nancy Hovdey, Don Dodd, Mike Farrell, Councilman Soubirous, Bill Paynter) and student volunteers (Abbey Paynter, Stephen Gallaher, Jeremiah Burton). Thanks to all.

Adam Timura, Don Dodd, Jeremiah Burton and Stephan Gallaher planting a tree.

Frank Yost, Mike Farrell, Stephan Gallaher, Jeremiah Burton, Adam Timura and Councilman Mike Sourbirous.



Continued from page 3—Irrigating citrus—water quality

The Task Force was also concerned that endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) known to be high in recycled water might present a public health risk, as shown by a scientific paper published in the journal *Endocrine Reviews* in 2012 (the “Vandenberg” study). This study suggested that, like salts, EDCs in irrigation water can be taken up through the roots and concentrated in plants. EDCs change the level of hormones in the human blood stream, and can be especially dangerous to pregnant women because hormone levels in the mother’s blood regulate the development of the unborn child. For example, perchlorate is an EDC that inhibits the production of thyroid hormone. Thyroid hormone insufficiency in an expecting mother alters the development of the child’s brain, resulting in impaired cognitive ability. One reason recycled water is unsafe to drink is its high level of EDCs, many of which are toxic chemicals released during industrial processes. Dr. Grattan stated that the EDCs in recycled water are an important component to examine when evaluating the water’s safety for crop irrigation because orange trees can concentrate EDCs. For example, orange trees in Loma Linda irrigated with contaminated well water that had a perchlorate level of 18 ppb produced oranges with a perchlorate level of 38 ppb. The drinking water safety limit for perchlorate is 6 ppb.

In light of these risks, the Riverside City Council showed commendable leadership and foresight several years ago when it halted a project to irrigate local citrus with recycled water after questions were raised about water quality.

2014 Calendar

Saturday, May 10

Garden Mulching

Meet at Dr. Lewis

Garden—9AM

**Annual Great
American Cleanup**

Saturday, May 10

**HHY Memorial
Grove Dedication**

Meet at Myrtle St

3PM



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Dedicated to the preservation of Victoria Avenue, Riverside, California with tax-deductible financial contributions from: Membership, Endowments and Tree Commemorations: see victoriaavenue.org for details about joining or making a contribution.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



YOU ARE INVITED:

HELEN HAYS YEAGER MEMORIAL GROVE DEDICATION

May 10th, 2014 at 3PM

Meet at the HHY Memorial Grove at Myrtle Street.

Mayor Rusty Bailey and Councilman Mike Sourbirous will present.

Refreshments will be served.

