

Meet your neighbors – Jack and Betty Clarke moved into their home on Oak Plain Dr. in August two years ago. The stairs in their Copper Hill home became too much for Jack to manage. Having lived in Santa Clarita for 48 years, they were familiar with Friendly



Valley, so it was a natural choice. Jack was born in England but came to the U.S. in 1945 as a young teen. His transportation was the Queen Mary. Betty hails from a happy little farming community called Joy, Illinois. The two met in 1957 at Northwestern University, where Betty was attending summer classes and Jack was involved in a television production. They were married a year later and moved to California in 1959. Jack has mostly been an insurance investigator, including 30 years with Mutual of Warsaw, but also had a 4-year stint as a stage actor. Betty had ten years as a clerk at Lockheed Aircraft, but mostly spent her time raising their two children. Together they were involved in the 4H Club and groomed both dogs and horses for show. But their dominant activity seems to have been ocean cruises – over fifty in their 60+ years. They have recently acquired a vacation home near Nashville, TN, which they plan to visit occasionally. Since coming to FV, Betty has been involved with City of Hope and is taking Gina Leonard’s acrylics art class. Their daughter lives in Florida and their son in Canyon Country. They have 5 grandchildren, 4 of which are local.

Repaving Friendly Valley Parkway – Well, it finally happened. First planned for February, it was delayed once for freezing weather and then again for a legal consideration. But on July 15 the work began and was finished on schedule by July 26. Now we have a strip of roadway that is smooth and pothole-free. Despite the concerns, the project went off with no major calamities. Or perhaps it was *because* of the concerns that it went so well. Thanks should go to Director Gary Simpson, who was the driving force, and to Chief of Security Al Sirco and his staff, who controlled

the traffic patterns. There were no accidents, no serious backup, and emergency vehicles got in and out without a problem. One car started driving on the wrong side, but was quickly corrected. There was an incident that was more humorous than serious. “STOP AHED” was painted twice before being found and corrected.



Someone tried to take me phishing – I recently got an email, ostensibly from my bank, saying my account activity had been restricted due to “unusual activities of multiple use of incorrect logon details.” Then it said to “click **here** to restore and protect your account.” It went on to say, “... make sure your debit or credit card is within reach as you will be mandated to verify your card details. Failure to restore full access can lead to permanent suspension of your access to our banking services.” Needless to say, I did not “click **here**” as suggested. Instead, I logged on to my online banking account and verified that there was no restriction. Then I called the bank Fraud Department to report the situation and send them a copy of the email. Forewarned is forearmed. Don’t get caught!

My experience with solar panels – About six years ago I investigated the idea of solar power for my home. Both the purchase and lease plans were scary. Besides, Assn 5 was getting close to replacing all of the roofs of our 166 units. So I declined. Now the roofs have all been replaced and are good for many years, so last year I decided that the time was right. I found a company that offers a Power Purchase Agreement. With this plan, my cash outlay was zero. I did not buy the panels, nor do I lease them. I simply allowed the company to install 19 panels on my roof and agreed to purchase all of the power that they produce. Any power that I don't use I sell to Edison. All of this happens without my lifting a finger. Every month I pay about \$12 to Edison for the privilege of being connected to their grid, and I pay the solar company for the power their panels produce at the rate of 17½¢ per Kwhr. In addition, Edison is giving me credit (it shows on my bill) for the power I am selling them. They will write me a check after 12 months. Here's the bottom line. In the nine months since the panels were activated, my net power bill is 50% lower than for the same period a year earlier. In the interest of full disclosure, my grandson is a salesman for the solar company, but the deal I described is available to any homeowner. Diana Pedrick also has a grandson who is a salesman for another solar company. Finally, Alan Ecker, who lives on Long Oak, has ten solar panels on his roof. He is willing to talk about his situation.

Fridays with the Professors – This series of talks by academics meets on Fridays from 1:00 to 3:00 in the Friendly Valley Church. The fall term is shaping up. There will be something on every Friday from Aug 30 to Dec 13, except Nov 29 (Thanksgiving break). The schedule so far: Aug 30: "Medicare 101". Sep 27: "Real Estate Forecasts for the Future". Oct 18: "Pompeii: a visit to this ancient city". Nov 1: "From Savage to Citizen: American Indians in 19th Century". Dec 13: "Brain Gym for Seniors, Part 2".

Yours for the picking – There is a peach tree on Green Terrace Dr. It's planted in the backyard of a vacant unit, but ¾ of the branches and

fruit hang over into the Common Area above a patch of carpet roses. That makes them fair game for anyone. If the peaches are left to fall on their own, they'll just make a mess that the gardeners will have to clean up. As of this moment, they're not quite ripe, but maybe they'll be ready soon. Just be careful not to step on the carpet roses. They are perennials and we want them to be beautiful next year.

Julie Andrews is one of us – To celebrate her 69th birthday on October 1st, 2011, Julie Andrews gave a performance for the benefit of the AARP. One of her numbers was a parody of "My Favorite Things" Here are the actual lyrics. Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting, Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings, Bundles of magazines tied up in string, These are a few of my favorite things. Cadillac's and cataracts, and hearing aids and glasses, Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses, Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings, These are a few of my favorite things. When the pipes leak, when the bones creak, When the knees go bad, I simply remember my favorite things, And then I don't feel so bad. Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions, No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions, Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring, These are a few of my favorite things. Back pains, confused brains, and no need for sinnin', Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin', And we won't mention our short, shrunken frames, When we remember our favourite things. When the joints ache, When the hips break, When the eyes grow dim, Then I remember the great life I've had, And then I don't feel so bad.

Thanks – to Bob Trulik & Judy Carter for switching to email. Thanks also to the person who donated an old FV Directory with unit numbers and association numbers.

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Wise or Otherwise

"Never does the human soul appear so strong and noble as when it forgoes revenge and dares to forgive an injury." – E. H. Chapin