



Hi, Five



The newsletter of, by, and for the people of Friendly Valley, Association Five

Volume X Number 2

Monday, January 21, 2019

First issue, first error – It may not be the last. When I learn about my errors I'll let you know, so don't hesitate to tell me. Thanks to a couple of readers, I now know that the two U.S. senators from California are Diane Feinstein and Kamala Harris.

The face of the Office – While there are seven people working in the FV office, the one face you are most likely to see is that of our receptionist, Jeanne (GEE-nee) Sawyer. Jeanne hails from St. Louis, MO, but has spent the last 31 years in CA – Los Angeles and vicinity. She has worked at numerous jobs, mostly in the health care field, including one stint in a veterinarian's surgery and another in a medical office. Last August she applied for work with a temp agency and was delighted when she learned of her assignment to Friendly Valley. On Nov. 19, she left the agency and became a permanent FV employee. Her assigned tasks are myriad, but this is what she says herself. "The task that is my personal priority is making sure every person who walks through the door feels welcome and knows that we are here to assist them. I may be the first person they see, but the team I work with does a wonderful job getting everything taken care of."



Jeanne attributes her people skills to her father, who was a salesman. In fact, she says she owes all of her good qualities to her parents, who, sadly, are no longer around. She has a son, 19, and a daughter, 28, both living in Saugus. Outside of work, she enjoys doing day trips with her "kids", and in her spare time, she is learning to play the ukulele. She is happy to be here, and we are happy to have her.

Using your fireplace – Santa Clarita Building and Safety Dept has advised us that our fireplaces are not to be used to burn wood or wood products. Our Board added a rule to our Rules and Regs. You will be advised of it soon.

Regular home maintenance – Here are some things to put on a maintenance schedule. Your central air (heating & cooling) system has a filter that needs attention to keep the air flowing freely. Otherwise, your operating costs can go up unnecessarily. Some filters can be cleaned; others need to be replaced. Whatever your needs, every six months is a good schedule. Your clothes dryer has a vent to carry the hot air and lint away, probably outside your garage. Likely the vent is covered with a screen to keep varmints out. That screen needs to be cleaned, perhaps monthly, to keep the dryer operating efficiently. Your A/C unit has a condenser that takes water out of the cooled air. The water is carried out of the garage through a pipe. It doesn't happen often, but if you see a puddle on your garage floor near the A/C unit, that drain pipe may be clogged. A plumber might be able to clear it with compressed air. Finally, if you have battery-powered smoke alarms or carbon monoxide (CO) detectors, change the batteries once a year.

Gutter cleaning – Our gardeners have completed their annual cleaning of our front gutters, but they do not clean the roofs. Therefore (or if you have a large overhanging tree), you may see your gutters collecting debris again. Just turn in a Request Form at the office, and your gutter will be cleaned again. Remember that the gutters behind your fence are your own responsibility.

Green waste collection – The state of California has mandated that HOAs, including Friendly Valley, start planning to collect green waste (gardening debris). This has lots of ramifications, and there are a number of details to be worked out before it happens.

A change in the office – At the Rec Board meeting last Monday, we learned that Linda Radtke, our office manager, is no longer with us. No reason was given and no replacement was announced. Management of the office is currently being done by some of the Rec Board directors.

Changes to CC&Rs and Bylaws – Last year saw the passage of one amendment to the Assn 5 Bylaws and three to the CC&Rs. The law requires that CC&R amendments be recorded in the L.A. County Recorder's Office. The Board asked our (newly hired) attorney to see to the proper recording. The attorney discovered that some previous amendments had not been recorded, and it's absolutely necessary to do all recordings in the proper order. Happily it has all been straightened out. Soon you will be receiving in the mail the updated pages for both the CC&Rs and the Bylaws.

The cost of filming – Although our office personnel got a three-day paid vacation, and FV received a tidy sum of free cash from Paramount Studios, the Rec Board decided that it wasn't worthwhile. A lot of work didn't get done in a timely manner, and the staff had to play catch-up for a few days. There will be no more filming in the office.

Passing notes – Virginia Petters passed away last Monday. She was a long-time resident of FV and has lived in Assn 5 since 1970. She has had full-time care for some time and was visited daily by her good friend Betty Rose (Assn 7). Virginia was 105 years old.

Voluntary water-use reduction – The annual maintenance of the Castaic Lake reservoir will take place between Feb. 2 and Feb 9. During that period, Santa Clarita will be served ground water only. The water agencies have asked that all outdoor irrigation be stopped during that period, and that all residents make an effort to reduce water use.

Acrylic painting classes – A new class for beginning students will start on Jan. 30, from 1:30 to 3:30. No charge for the instruction, but you will buy your own materials. A list of what's needed will be supplied. A class for advanced students is continuing every Friday from 12:30 to 2:30. If you have experience with acrylics, you can fit right in. Contact Gina Leonard at 661-977-1202.

Meet your neighbor – Maryalys Hill grew up in a small town where “everybody knew everybody else”. From an early age she was involved in choral music, orchestra, and marching band. She always wanted to be a teacher, so she entered Ohio State U. College of Education, graduating in '47 as an art major. Her first job was in Oak Ridge, TN, teaching art to the children of the scientists and engineers who made the atomic bomb. There she met Ed Hill, a mathematician/electrical engineer serving in the army. They were both in the community chorus. (“Why doesn't FV have a chorus?” she laments.) Married in 1949, they moved to Ohio where she taught sixth grade. Moved again in 1960 to La Jolla, got an MA from San Diego State. Taught art history on PBS, at community colleges, and at the S.D. Naval Base. Her students called her Dr. Hill, so she made them honest by earning an EdD. Widowed in 1995, her final move was to FV, Assn 5, in 2011, and “I love it here”. She has one son living in Valencia and two granddaughters who live in Irvine and El Paso.



“If you want them to grow, you hafta say a prayer to your gardening angel.”

Next issue of *Hi Five* – February 4, 2019.

Wise or Otherwise

The early bird gets the worm, but if you're the worm sleep late.
The second mouse gets the cheese, so if you're the mouse sleep late.

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