



## New officers for the Community Council –

The CC held an election at the Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Of the two candidates, Keith Pierce received the greater number of votes and thus was granted a two-year term. He will serve as chairperson for the first year of his term. Keith and his wife Kim have lived in FV for 4 years. He is currently president of Assn 9, and has been for three years. Keith was also the instigator of the Christmas Lights contest that has gone on for the last three years. The other candidate, Stuart Lewis, of Assn 4 received a one-year term and will serve as vice chair. He and his wife Rosalie have lived in FV for 16 years. Stuart recently retired after 50 years as a CPA and now wants to join his wife in being active in our community. Rosalie has been president of Assn 4 for 5 years.



**Don't stop recycling** – A rumor is circulating that Waste Management can no longer send its recycled materials to China. To get the facts, *Hi Five* posed a question to Laura Jardine, Project Technician, Environmental Services, City of Santa Clarita. Here is her answer. "China's National Sword has certainly made things challenging, but it has not affected Waste Management finding other markets for the recyclables currently. Everything that is put in the recycle bin, that is not contaminated, is still recycled at this point. Our main focus right now is to make sure the right items are going into the recycling and it is clean. At the state level, they are focused on trying to get more infrastructure locally that can process the materials, so we don't have to rely so much on foreign processing."

**Citing two volunteers** – Ruth Gauthier, Rec Board president, noted two residents who have been giving their time to help out in the office. Daria Landress (Assn 2), with her background in business and advertising, has been soliciting ads for our coming Directory, and also creating display ads for many of the advertisers. The

Business Directory will be distributed with the new residential directory and both will be made available as soon as they come back from the printer. Money from advertising will be used for outsourcing the printing, relieving the office staff of that short-term but heavy burden. Kathleen Simpson (Assn 5), with her legal background, has been organizing the office files, pointing out what documents have to be kept (and for how long) and what may be discarded.

**Speaking of office files** – The office is running out of space. To solve that problem, the office is being extended to take over the former Pool Room. The added space will be used to hold an organized collection of file cabinets, which are currently scattered hither and yon. In turn, the pool tables will be moved to the former Meeting Place, which will no longer be available for meetings.

**Mary Stepheny visits** – She's here from N. Dakota visiting her mother (in assisted living) and her old friends in Assn 4. Mark your calendar for open house potluck on Sun., 3/24, between 1pm and 4 pm, in the Annex. Mary continues her dedication to City of Hope as the editor of the monthly Newsletter, and was very active in Ceramics, a computer expert for Friendly Valley residents, and enjoyed cards with several groups.

**Fridays with the Professors** – This group meets from 1pm to 3pm in the Friendly Valley Community Church. Instructors from College of the Canyons come to lead discussions of interest to our community. Everyone's invited. On March 22, "Elder Care & Financial Abuse" will tell you how to avoid becoming a victim. On March 29, "Unforgettable Memories through Storytelling" will help you turn your personal stories into fun and exciting events for your family and friends.

**Repaving FV Parkway** – This project has been rescheduled for April 29, but it will still depend on the weather (rain and temperature). Stay tuned.

**New escrow clerk** – If all goes according to plan, the office will have a new escrow clerk effective today, freeing Penny to work on other matters.

**Five escrows were closed last month** – adding \$15,000 to the Rec Association's treasury.

**Upgrading HVAC units** – Some of you have noticed a lack of heat in the Annex and other parts of the crafts and meeting rooms complex. Here's what Rec Assn Director Michael Fennick has to say about it. "We are entertaining proposals to upgrade to Solar energy, re-roof and replace the HVAC (heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning) system on the entire common area complex. Those HVAC units that feed the Annex and all adjacent rooms are well past their prime and have been for years. That particular unit is intermittent and to attempt to repair it or any other unit would be a gross waste of our funds since total replacement is in our future. Unfortunately, the weather this winter has made it much more noticeable and irritating. We will be getting our final proposals soon in order to make our decision. With any luck at all, construction will start as soon as permanently calm weather allows. The entire structure will be shut down for a long time, and clubs will have to adjust because of it. If all goes well, we can enjoy the upcoming summer season in comfort. It's a big undertaking, but completely necessary if any of those buildings will realize a more secure future."

**Saving water** – The extended period of rain that we recently endured had a good side. Most of our sprinkler timers in Assn 5 have sensors that prevent their turning on for a brief period after rain has been detected. The water bills that Assn 5 paid in Dec, Jan, and Feb were \$4357, \$3474, and \$3422, so rain helped us by about \$900 in each of two months. But even more can be gained, we think, by turning the timers totally off for an extended period. All-Pro was able to do that for a few weeks recently. Next month, *Hi Five* intends to report the resultant savings in our water bills by comparing this year's bill(s) with those of the same period(s) last year.

**This has got to stop!** – It has become obvious that someone who walks a dog on North Oak Highland is just not paying attention to what the dog is doing. At least we prefer to think that rather than believe this dog owner is purposely flaunting the rules. It seems that the dog has chosen one particular lawn as his favorite pooping ground. Two weeks ago, the owner of that lawn found and marked six spots where the dog had deposited excrement that had not been picked up, most likely over a period of at least six

days. She then presented a photograph of the marked lawn to the Board, hoping for a solution. But what can the Board do? Well, it has the power to levy a fine for each violation, but only if the perpetrator can be identified. Short of that, we can only ask all dog walkers to do a self-examination. Do you pay attention to what your dog is doing? Do you always carry a bag with you to do the pickup? You should know that failure to visibly carry a bag when you are walking a dog is in itself a rule violation. The Board could ask Security to enforce that rule by stopping and admonishing or citing a dog walker without a bag. But how many of us who carry a bag in our pocket would pay the price for one violator. Alternatively, if you see a violation, speak up. Or if necessary, report it. "What? You want me to be a snitch?" you say. Don't think of it that way. Consider that you are being a good citizen helping to keep our community clean and neighbor-friendly.

**Ageless Strength and Fitness** – There are 30+



individuals in this picture, but that's only about half of the number who attended the "Ageless Strength and Fitness" class on Friday in the Fireside Room. The class was taught by Diane Ghilardi, Certified Personal Trainer, Corrective Exercise Specialist, and Functional Aging Specialist. She is the daughter of the late Cecile Ceurvorst, a long-time resident of Assn 5 on Ave of the Oaks. Diane described a number of exercises suitable for seniors that can alleviate many of the ills and potentially dangerous inconveniences that plague older folks. The audience was then taken (in smaller groups) to the gym and shown how to use the equipment, emphasizing safety, form, and hygiene.

**Give us ideas** – Got a club to boost? Is there an upcoming event? Will Assn 5 have another picnic this year? Do you have a thought to share? Let *Hi Five* know about it.

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**Wise or Otherwise**

There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them. – Joseph Alexandrovitch Brodsky

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