

**Meet Your Neighbors** – Walter and Yolanda Conner met in the tenth grade at San Fernando High School. Something must have clicked, because they were married less than a year out of high school. That was back in the days when Nat King Cole was singing “They tried to tell us we’re too young.” Well, Walt and Yolanda proved the naysayers (and Nat) wrong. The couple have been married now for 68 years, looking forward to a 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary next April.



Walt is a dyed-in-the-wool Californian, having been born in San Fernando and having spent his whole life in this neighborhood. As a youth, he had a horse and did a lot of riding. He started work at JPL in 1956. As a machinist, he made parts for space crafts and scientific instruments. He helped build Explorer-1, America’s first satellite. He also worked on both Voyager-1 and Voyager-2, Moving to the Optics Dept., he did optical alignment on two instruments that went to Mars, and he did the optics that fixed the prescription problem on the Hubble telescope. He retired in 1997. As a hobby, Walt did engraving of belt buckles and guns, but after retiring he took up wood carving. He still enjoys that activity. He has carved birds of prey, animals, or whatever people wanted.

Yolanda was born in Shelby, MT, and lived there until she was nine. That’s when her family moved to Van Nuys. After marriage she was mostly a housewife and office worker. She also spent four years as an instructional aide at her old high school. Yolanda enjoys embroidering, crocheting, and knitting. Her main interest, however, was in horses.

Together they have lived in the San Fernando Valley for their entire marriage. They belonged to an equestrian organization, doing weekend and week-long group rides and camping trips. For thirty years they had a house in Lake View Terrace, where they had horses, dogs, cats, and chickens. When that became too much to take care of, they opted for a smaller place. Friendly

Valley seemed to be right for them, so in 2015 they bought a home on Circle Knoll. They have a niece in Acton and another in Corona.

**Trash Collection** – Today is a holiday for Waste Management. That means their schedule for the week slips by one day. Our trash pickup will be on Thursday this week, instead of Wednesday. Put your barrels out on Wednesday evening.

**Solar Power Yes or No?** – In July, we reported that our new solar panels were working and generating electricity. That was true, in a way. Wise Solar, the company that installed the system, turned it on and proved that it was working. But SoCal Edison had other ideas. A new system has to meet all of *their* requirements. Some issues were found, and Edison asked for some changes. Wise Solar is making those changes at their expense, and they have agreed to compensate FV for the time the panels have not been producing. We now expect real activation by the end of this week. ☺

**Decals, Gate Cards, and Carports** – As of now, only cars with FV decals can come through the Residents’ Gate and/or park in a carport. If a resident is driving a borrowed, or rented, or just-bought car, he/she must enter FV through the Visitors’ Gate. The CC just approved a new mirror-hanger, a light-blue card similar to the yellow visitor’s parking permit. It is a temporary way to give a car without a decal the same privileges as one with a decal. The card is not available yet. Watch for a notice in the *Villager*. Additionally, your gate card may only be used when you are in the car with it. Violations of these rules are expensive.

**Annual Meetings** – The CC advised all of the associations’ reps to start thinking about how and where they will hold their Annual Meetings and elections amid the COVID restrictions.

**Next Year’s Insurance** – The Insurance Committee has asked four brokers to prepare bids. The committee will hear their proposals and select two. Then the Community Council will make the final choice. It has been a long time since we solicited competitive bids.

**Editor Wanted** – I’m still looking for someone to carry on *Hi Five* when I’m gone or too old to continue.

**Origins of Friendly Valley** – Bob Hope once owned property that's now the site of the Friendly Valley Country Club, a 1,290-home senior residential community. According to the Historical Society, Hope owned an estimated 20 acres in Santa Clarita Valley. Hope's priority at the time was business, not the environment. When he looked at empty land, he tended to see golf courses and expensive homes. On the Santa Clarita land he envisioned a country club with golf courses, and Friendly Valley was born. That makes Bob Hope the father of Friendly Valley. He only asked that the investors in the venture leave the golf courses always intact. So thank you, Bob Hope, for your envisioning this community, Friendly Valley, and may you long be honored and recognized for it.

*Selected from writings of Jane Hills  
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### **Remembering Bob Hope –**

On turning 80 - "That's the time of your life when even your birthday suit needs pressing."

On turning 90 - "You know you are getting old when the candles cost more than the cake."

On turning 100 - "I don't feel old. In fact, I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap."

On giving up his early career (boxing) - "I ruined my hands in the ring. The referee kept stepping on them."

On golf - "Golf is my profession. Show business is just to pay the green fees."

On presidents - "I have performed for 12 presidents but entertained only six."

On why he chose showbiz for his career - "When I was born, the doctor said to my mother, congratulations, you have an eight-pound ham."

On receiving the congressional gold medal - "I feel very humble, but I think I have the strength of character to fight it."

On his family's early poverty - "Four of us slept in the one bed. When it got cold, mother threw on another brother."

On his six brothers - "That's how I learned to dance. Waiting for the bathroom."

On his early failures - "I would not have had anything to eat if it wasn't for the stuff the audience threw at me."

**Assn 5 Board Meeting** – Not the unusual date. It is Sept. 15, at 10:00am, in the back patio at 26499 Fairway Circle. Bring your own chair and wear a mask. The main business will be a presentation by Mike Cusick, the owner of All-Pro, our current gardening firm.

**Colored Curbs** – No big changes will be made. The existing green curbs will have time limits painted in them. A new color will be chosen to designate space for utility vehicles while their equipment is being serviced.

**Security Personnel Turnover** – The CC heard an explanation for the turnover among our Security staff. No one chooses Security as a career path (except, perhaps, the Head of Security). For the most part, it is a minimum-wage position, requiring little or no special skills. Only our gate attendants face any complexity in their job.

**Help Wanted** – Kathy needs help with do-it-yourself projects, like spray painting faded plant stands; sanding and painting a child's small wood high chair; a child's small very old desk; making a Roman shade for a small window; making a "header" for a vertical draw shade; someone who has a rock polisher. She will work with you to learn how, or pay you, or contribute to your favorite charity in your name. Thank you. Call Kathy at 661-360-9556.



**An example of patience and wisdom**  
**Next issue of Hi Five** – September 21, 2020.

The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is now. – Chinese proverb

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