



**Meet your neighbor** – Carol Yanez, an only child, was born and raised in Long Beach. Although she started nursing school, she did not finish. Nevertheless, she worked for a year as a nurse's aid at Long Beach Memorial Hospital until she married Bill Yanez, also an only child, and became an instant stepmother to two girls.



Carol moved in with Bill and his two daughters in Downey, where they lived for 30 years and had two more children. Bill was an L.A. City Fireman for those 30 years, while Carol was a stay-at-home mom, active in PTA and chauffeuring the kids to various activities. On Bill's retirement, she took a job as a veterinarian's assistant and held it for 11 years. When Bill developed Alzheimer's, the couple moved to Yucca Valley to honor his desire to live in that community. On Bill's passing, Carol found herself traveling long distances to visit her children in Castaic and Redondo Beach. This prompted her move to FV. She settled in on Oak Plain Dr in 2017. During much of their 41-year marriage, Bill and Carol owned an RV and loved to travel, camp, and fish. Since coming here, Carol has been working as a volunteer in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Henry Mayo Hospital. She also plays pickleball twice a week, uses the pool, attends the FV Community Church, and has joined the local chapter of Newcomers and Friends. Carol's family consists of a son and daughter, both married, and two grandsons. From the two stepdaughters there are four more grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Another Dial-a-Ride Update** – In our last issue we told you of discounts for Dial-a-Ride trips. What we didn't say, because we didn't know, was that you have to *qualify*. Contact Dial-a-Ride (661-294-9327) or the Senior Center (661-259-9444) to see if you can qualify.

**Assn 5 elections** – The new Board consists of Robert Giammarino elected for two years, Judy Robb re-elected for two years, Elizabeth

McGowan elected for one year, and Dave Swartz & Manny Alfaro continuing for one more year. Both amendments to our CC&Rs were approved. One was merely cosmetic, and legally required, to keep our CC&Rs in line with Calif. Civil Code 51.3. The other allows the Board to invest our funds in other than FDIC-insured instruments. It was so poorly written that the Board could now choose to invest in commodities or penny stocks, for example. No one believes that the present Board would do that, but it is wise to have safeguards in the controlling documents for future situations. When this flaw was pointed out at the October meeting, we were assured that the measure would be re-written with tighter controls and submitted for a new vote of approval without waiting for the next Annual Meeting.

**Insurance costs** – It happens every year. All of our associations are forced to create their budgets without knowing what insurance costs will be for the next year. Usually a guess can be made that turns out to be reasonable. This year was a killer. When the budget for Assn 5 was created in October, the Board, assuming a nominal increase in insurance costs, managed to hold our dues increase down to \$13 per month. When the proposals came in from our brokers, the cost of fire insurance was up by 26% over last year. Earthquake insurance is up even more. Will the budget have to be revised? The next CC meeting will help to answer that.

**Traffic problems** – This has been a time-consuming topic at both the Rec Board and Community Council meeting for about four months. And it won't go away until more drivers start paying attention to STOP signs. Don't think it's mostly delivery trucks and other outsiders. There are plenty of violators in ordinary cars with FV stickers on the windshield. Last month, Security issued 28 citations for failure to stop. Apparently, the \$25 fine is not a big enough deterrent. Keith Pierce, CC chair, suggested a community service project of sitting by a stop sign for an hour counting the number of cars that don't come to a full stop. No action was taken on that proposal. That and other options will be considered next month.

**Wal\*Mart home delivery** – Denise Boyette, Assn 4, describes her experience as convenient and efficient. With the WalMart grocery app, she chooses both groceries and non-grocery items from a large selection. When the cart is “full”, she can opt for pickup outside the store or home delivery at a specified hour. Pickup is free and no tipping. Delivery costs either \$7.95 or \$9.95, with tipping optional

**Another pharmacy with free delivery** – Sharon Devol, Assn 4, mentions Zoey Pharmacy, a “mom and pop” business, which is up the hill on Via Princesa across from Costco. They are open Mon-Fri, 9-7 and Sat 9-3. Call 661-298-5858.

**Building renovation project** – All paperwork for HVAC, solar, electrical, and roofing has been signed off and submitted to the City of Santa Clarita for approval and permitting. We are on target to complete the necessary 10% of the work required in order to qualify for the 15% discount provided to us through partnership with our Tax Equity Group.

**Consequence of the power outage** – Due to the loss of power on Oct 30, one of our pool pump motors was damaged. It was replaced the following week. Since more planned-but-spontaneous outages are likely in the future, the Rec Board is looking into how to be prepared for future similar events while avoiding equipment damage. The Board intends to provide “a modern, efficient, and safe facility.” One step being considered is to obtain a generator that could be put in place to provide power for our auditorium. It could be made available for residents to come in and charge small items like cellphones.

**Pool temperature** – To reduce energy costs in low-usage months, the pool temperature will be reduced from 82° to 78° on Dec 15, down to 75° on Jan 1, and raised back to 82° on March 1.

**A sobering thought** – In case of fire or earthquake, are you prepared? Have you thought of how you could continue to live if basic utilities were shut off for a few days – or weeks? What are the most important items that you would pack to take with you if forced to

evacuate? There are only three exits from FV, all of them leading to Sierra Highway, which is one of the very few arteries that take people out of Santa Clarita. Where is your nearest relative or friend that is not within this local community. It’s worthwhile to think about these questions and facts and develop a plan for you own survival in case of such disasters.

**Good neighbors** – Ruth Gauthier, Rec Board president, was visiting family in Pennsylvania when she received a phone call. A neighbor’s water heater had sprung a leak and was pouring water all over Ruth’s new carpet. But when she returned, other neighbors had already taken steps to control the damage and begin cleanup. It’s acts like this that put the “Friendly” in front of “Valley”.

**Thanksgiving holiday** – Various days of Thanksgiving have been celebrated in America since the earliest pilgrims arrived in the 17th century. The first Thanksgiving Day occurred, in the public mind, in 1621 when the Plymouth Pilgrim community joined in a feast with local Indians to celebrate the first harvest that the colonists had reaped on American soil. Ninety Indians and 53 Pilgrims feasted and partied for three days at that event, and it was an official day of giving thanks to God for his blessings. President Abraham Lincoln declared a day of “thanksgiving and praise” on the last Thursday of November in 1863, and that tradition continued for 76 years. In 1939, FDR moved it to the fourth Thursday, and a 1941 law made that change permanent.



**Next issue of Hi Five** – December 2, 2019.

**Thought for the Day**

"Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are." ~ John Wooden