

Campo/Lake Morena Calendar

March 23rd **Spaghetti Dinner for Student's Washington DC trip** 5:00 to 8:00 at Mountain Empire High School **-\$5.00 per person**
March 26th **Campo/Lake Morena Sponsor Group** 7 PM Campo Community Center
March 30th **Youth and Community Services Subcommittee**, Back Country Revitalization, 2 PM to 4 PM Campo Community Center
March 31st **Ad Hoc Committee on Community Character**, 9 AM Campo Fire & Rescue
April 4th **Lake Morena Village Council** 7 PM Lake Morena Fire Station
April 9th **Lake Morena Fire Dept. Association** 7 PM Lake Morena Fire Station
April 16th **Campo Fire & Rescue** 7:30 PM Campo Fire Station
April 19th **Friends of the Library** 9:30 AM Campo Elementary
April 21st **Ad Hoc Committee on Community Character**, 9 AM Campo Fire & Rescue
April 23rd **Campo/Lake Morena Sponsor Group** 7 PM Campo Community Center
April 25th **Mountain Empire School Board** 6 PM Campo Indian Reservation
May 5th and 6th **Old Time Days Spring Festival**, all day Railroad Museum Grounds
May 14th **Mountain Empire Collaborative** 4 PM to 6 PM Campo Community Center

MERIT Recycling Center Sunday 9:00 to 1:00, Monday 9:00 to 1:00

Campo Homemakers Thrift Shop Thursday 12:30 to 3:00 Saturday 10:00 to 2:00

Mountain Empire Historical Society Museum 11:00 to 4:00 Saturday and Sunday

Campo Seniors Meeting and Potluck Dinner 5 PM on the third Monday in the month, Pancake Breakfast 7 AM to 10 AM on the second and fourth Saturday in the month



M E R I T
Post Office Box 665
Campo, CA 91906

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 4

SPONSOR GROUP MEETING
March 26th at 7:00 PM Campo
Community Center - ARE THERE Ad Hoc
COMMITTEES IN OUR FUTURE?

POSTAL PATRON
CAMPO, CA 91906

MERIT

Mountain Empire Resources Information Taskforce
Post Office Box 665
Campo, CA 91906-3106
619-478-9549
Newsletter #13 - 22 March 2001

MERIT - MISSION STATEMENT

“The primary objectives and purposes of MERIT shall be to provide education and information that will 1) protect and maintain the natural resources, 2) promote responsible use of ground water, and 3) preserve the rural character of the community.”

MERIT OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Mike Thometz - President Pat Noblitt - Vice President Bev Esry - Treasurer Gary Watkins - Director Teddy Davis - Secretary

March 26th Sponsor Group Meeting

The meeting will be at the Campo Community Center on Monday 26 March at 7:00 PM. A complete agenda is posted in the community and in the Alpine Sun. The agenda includes:

VI. COMMITTEES:

A) Trails: D. Herrera B) Community Character: G. Webber/J. Foster.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS:

A) Approval of membership for ad hoc committee on community character. B) Comments on Preliminary Engineering Report for Sheridan Road Improvements (factual accuracy/viability of alternatives/funding options). C) Telephone Company Complex on Hwy 94 (Pacific Bell Representative). D) Modification of Zoning Ordinance definition of Kennel. E) Further discussion of proposed letter in support of improving Campo athletic facilities.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

A) Comments on Chapter 8 Purchase Agreements of lots 46 and 58 of Lake Morena Village by Ramona Rural Association, Inc. B) Comments regarding possible development of standards for Telecommunications Facilities. C) Proposal for Sponsor Group/Village Council/citizen tour of the City of San Diego Reservoir Facilities. D) Need for an Ad Hoc Committee to develop minimum community requirements regarding the SVDP PromiseLand Ranch project. E) Need for an Ad Hoc Committee to explore options to reestablish the local community newspaper.

X. PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

A) Planning Considerations for Fire Hazards by Dennis Berglund B) New Library update by Pat Noblitt

February 26th Sponsor Group Meeting

The Sponsor Group decided to change from two meetings a month back to one meeting a month on the fourth Monday the month at the Campo Community Center. There is a pause in the GP2020 process while the County considers possible alternatives to the Alternative III map. Once community level discussions resume on GP2020 and land use issues, the meeting frequency can be evaluated and, if needed, changes to the meeting schedule can be made. The Sponsor Group Ad Hoc committee on Community Character will be analyzing some of these issues over the next few weeks and will report back to the Sponsor Group and to the community.

St. Vincent de Paul notified the Sponsor Group that they were not going to fulfill their promise to meet with the community on March 12th to answer the many questions they were unable to answer at the February 12th meeting. SVDP advised the Sponsor Group there would be no more community meetings until they were ready to submit their land use request which is a Major Use Permit. Father Carroll has likewise informed MERIT that there will be no meetings with the public and that they will be following the normal developers procedure.

Ad Hoc Committee on Community Character

A committee was nominated by the Sponsor Group to study and define Community Character for Lake Morena/Campo. The first meeting was Saturday March 10th at Campo Fire & Rescue. Meetings are every third Saturday at 9 AM at Campo Fire with the next meeting on March 31st. Members include Larry Johnson, Cliff Northcote, Jan Foster, Pat Noblitt, Janette Mills, Mike Thometz, Glen Webber, Nancy Slaff, Brian Fallgren. Community input regarding what you feel defines the character of our community is encouraged. How would you define Campo/Lake Morena to someone who had never been here? What makes it unique and what makes it special?

PromiseLand Ranch

Despite the withdrawal of SVDP from public discussion of their project, four days after the Sponsor Group meeting SVDP

invited some members of the community to a meeting on March 10th in Pine Valley to hear their concerns. Instead of a public meeting it was an invitation only sent to members of MERIT and to the Chairman of the Sponsor Group. Despite MERIT's insistence that the issue involved is a **Land Use Issue** and is not an issue of the User, SVDP indicated to MERIT during this meeting that the community is expendable. Their comments were "Sure families in the community will suffer and lose their lifestyle but that is nothing compared to helping children." and "Would you not rather give up what you have for something like this that is for the good of the children?" People have said "Even if we can save one child it is worth displacing and damaging the environment and the wildlife." MERIT does not agree with this. This project is a land use question. We ask you to learn more about the land use issues and we will be happy to talk with any member of the community about the land use issues and the environmental issues and about the many different ways the problem of foster children, a serious problem that needs solutions, can be helped.

SVDP has indicated to some members of the community that their MUP will be filed in the near future. No exact date is given but the indications are that it will be in April or early May at the latest. SVDP is confident that the project will be approved and Larry Plaster has told people in the community ". . . it is a done deal" and ". . . the Board of Supervisors is behind this and has already approved the project". Those comments are not correct. There are serious land use questions that must be evaluated and there must be reasonable solutions to these questions. There will have to be many changes in the project before it is ever submitted to the Board of Supervisors.

Homemakers Thrift Shop College Scholarships

Since 1958 the Homemakers have been awarding scholarship to MEHS students. Scholarships for up to \$5,000 are now available for graduating MEHS seniors. Applications are available from counselors at school or at the Homemakers Thrift Shop. The deadline for submitting an application is May 3rd. The Thrift Shop is open Thursday 12:30 to 3:00 and Saturday 10:00 to 2:00.

Campo Fire & Rescue

The Board meets every month on the third Monday. The April 16th meeting is currently scheduled to have an important item of business on the agenda that requires a quorum of members from the community. The tentative agenda will have approval of the new By Laws of Campo Fire & Rescue. The community must approve and your presence is requested. The agenda for that meeting will be at the Fire Station and at the Olde Oak and possibly at other locations as well. Check the agenda. These new by laws replace very antiquated documents now in effect and will improve the governance of this valuable asset to the community.

Final negotiations are underway to replace the roof on the Fire Station. The existing roof is in terrible condition. It leaks and it is unsafe to walk on it. The Board obtained donations of some materials for the re-roofing. MERIT contacted Premier Roofing in La Mesa about helping, and Premier, in conjunction with Southern California Roofing Association, is finalizing an agreement to donate their services to roof the building. We want to thank Premier for their help as this donation will save the Fire Department a substantial outlay of funds they do not have. Without donations from the community Campo Fire would not be able to operate since the small amount of money provided by the County is already spent. The increases in fuel costs and electricity costs are particularly difficult. Since the failure of Proposition JJ, MERIT members have contributed \$1,100 to Campo Fire. We ask you to send the \$65 if possible or \$50 or whatever you can. We have fire season coming up. In addition, you can help by volunteering to assist the volunteer fire fighters with the tear-off of the old roof. Contact the Fire Station or call MERIT and leave your name and phone number.

Recycling Center Now Open

MERIT will open the Recycling Center for donations every Sunday and Monday 9AM to 1PM. If the demand for service grows, the center will consider opening Saturday and will consider longer hours. The center will sell the recycled goods and will contribute all revenues in excess of expenses to the community including Campo Fire & Rescue, Friends of the Campo Library and Mountain Empire youth activities. No money will be paid for materials donated and MERIT members volunteer their time to work at the center. Use of the center property and equipment are being donated by IMS Recycling Services and the Davis Family.

These materials will be accepted at the center: **Aluminum cans, glass containers** including both clean food containers and beverage containers, **newspaper, mixed paper** which includes junk mail, magazines, telephone books, **cardboard, PET plastic** bottles which are the ones used for Pepsi, Coke and similar soft drinks as well as bottled water and which have the recycling symbol on the bottom with a **1** inside the arrows, and **HDPE plastic** bottles which have a **2** inside the arrows and include items like milk containers, large bottled water containers and detergent containers.

We hope that the community will participate and help make this a success. Transportation costs to San Diego are very high. However, with broad-based support from the community through donating these materials we believe we can provide some substantial contributions to community organizations. If you have any questions, stop by the center or call the MERIT number.

Community Calendar

As a regular part of our newsletter we will publish a calendar. This newsletter is always printed on the third Monday of the month. Any community meetings and activities that groups in the Lake Morena/Campo area wish to be publicized should be

turned in to MERIT by the third Monday for the following month. Call 478-9549 to leave a message, mail information to PO Box 665 or email to thometz@sciti.com . We will do our best to produce a complete and accurate calendar.

MERIT

MERIT has an information package containing recent newspaper articles, editorials and letters to the editor in the Union Tribune, The READER, Alpine Sun and published material from the County. This package includes material on SVDP and PromiseLand Ranch and materials relating to General Plan 2020. This information will be sent to you upon receipt of your request. Call our number 478.9549 and leave your name and address or send an email. Copies of the recent East County Opinion page of the Union Tribune which contained side by side statements of the important issues concerning PromiseLand Ranch by MERIT and by Saint Vincent de Paul are part of the information available.

Back Country Community Revitalization Steering Committee

The community needs to become more involved in this group (BCRC). This is a regional group with members from Tecate through Jacumba. Four subcommittees are Economic Development, Youth and Community Services, Public Safety and Law Enforcement, and Infrastructure. BCRC considers issues outside of the land use and planning area although they sometimes are involved in land use issues. Sometimes BCRC recommends a different course than the Campo/Lake Morena Sponsor Group. MERIT recommends that you learn about the work of this committee, become involved if you can and that you keep in touch with what they are doing. We will try to bring as much information to you as we have space and keep you informed on Sub Committee meetings. The Youth and Community Services subcommittee meets Friday, March 30th at 2 PM at the Campo Community Center.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, March 24 from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Boulevard/Jacumba Sheriff substation at 39919 Highway 94 in Boulevard there will be a collection event. Paint, used motor oil, pesticides, poisons and other hazardous materials will be collected. You can bring materials for those who are unable to drive to the facility. This should be a help for senior citizens who have accumulated hazardous materials over the years and have been unable to dispose of them. Regulations permit the transportation in your vehicle of 5 gallons or 50 pounds of materials. If you have questions, call County Environmental Health at 877.713.2784.