

Campo/Lake Morena Calendar

April 21st Sat **Ad Hoc Committee on Community Character**, 9 AM Campo Fire & Rescue
April 23rd Mon. **Campo/Lake Morena Sponsor Group** 7 PM Campo Community Center
April 25th Wed. **Mountain Empire School Board** 6 PM Campo Indian Reservation
May 2nd Wed. **Mother's Day Breast Health Celebrations Special Luncheon** for Women 40+ call 478-5254 ext 37
May 5th and 6th Sat/Sun **Old Time Days Spring Festival**, all day Railroad Museum Grounds
May 14th Mon. **Mountain Empire Collaborative** 4 PM to 6 PM Campo Community Center
May 17th Thu. **Friends of the Library** 9:30 AM Campo Elementary
May 18th Fri **Youth and Community Services Subcommittee**, Back Country Revitalization Comm., 2 PM-4PM, Campo Community Center
May 21st Mon **Campo Fire & Rescue** - Community meeting and Board meeting - 7 PM Campo Fire
June 9th Sat. **Kiwanis Barn Dance**

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 5:00 Saturday and Sunday

Mountain Empire Kiwanis Thursday @ Old Oak Inn, 6:30 AM

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

Adult Computer Class Every Tuesday 2-5 Campo Community Center



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MERIT

Post Office Box 665

Campo, CA 91906

Sponsor Group Meeting April 23rd at
Campo Community Center at 7:00 PM

Election for Vacated Seat and Discussion on
Ad Hoc Committees on Community Character
and PromiseLand Ranch

POSTAL PATRON
CAMPO, CA 91906

Supplemental Information

Sorry this is late but vacations delayed the mailing of the newsletter to you. However, if your interest is such that you want to see the newsletter sooner, please see the enclosed sheet which gives you an internet alternative.

This newsletter has in addition to the MERIT letter a copy of a recent newsletter sent out by Saint Vincent de Paul. We thought you might like to see what SVDP is saying. You will see a timetable that SVDP has projected. We would recommend that you not make any plans based on this timetable. In our opinion this timetable is extremely optimistic. It assumes that the project will be approved and that is far from certain. Most observers feel the odds for approval are at best 50-50. The timetable also assumes there will be no legal actions by either party and that is also questionable.

One important date is June 25th which is the next Sponsor Group meeting. You will be receiving the next newsletter before that meeting. However, to give yourself time should you want to attend, you should be aware that SVDP and PromiseLand will be making a presentation to the Sponsor Group on Monday June 25th that is publicized as being their presentation of the final project and the same as the project that will be submitted to the County in their MUP. There is expected to be a very large turnout for this presentation. Also at that meeting the Sponsor Group will consider and may adopt the Community Character Statement the SG Ad Hoc committee has been working so hard on during the past three months. We will report in the newsletter in July if you are unable to attend. SVDP is supposed to make a similar presentation to the Boulevard Sponsor on June 7th.

Those of you who live in San Diego and have Cox Channel 4 and Fox may have seen a number of news features on SVDP, Joe Carroll and PromiseLand. Channel 4 had an *Insider Report* in late April, in the middle of May Fox News on their O'Reilly Factor report had a piece on Foster Care Abuse and PromiseLand and Carroll was featured on a Channel 4 piece earlier in April. Each person can form their own judgment upon reviewing these but I can assure you they are not reality based articles. The articles do not reflect what the full truth is and they are really public relations vehicles.

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MERIT

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Newsletter #14 - 19 April 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 architect presented the design for the new Library - very impressive. Announcements included notice that Jan Foster was resigning at the end of May due to a relocation, that all future Sponsor Group meetings would be at the Campo Community Center and that the sand at the Railroad Museum was temporary and the railroad would be moving the sand directly from Mexico to San Diego when the tunnel in Mexico was repaired. The Ad Hoc Committee membership was

approved, the County's analysis of improvements to Sheridan Road was discussed and withdrawn for one month, changes to the County's requirements for Large Family Day Care centers was discussed and approved, Dennis Berglund made a presentation requesting support for his plan to build a lake at the northeast corner of our area that could be used for fire fighting, and the Sponsor Group voted against changes to the County's Kennel ordinance.

April 9th Sponsor Group Meeting

At the March 26th meeting the Sponsor Group voted to have a special meeting April 9th to review General Plan 2020. Following the Board of Supervisors January decision to ask for further study and review of GP2020 criteria and density decisions each planning entity was asked to report back to Department of Planning and Land Use by April 23rd with recommendations. Our meeting was devoted to reviewing the criteria adopted by the community last fall. These criteria are listed in MERIT newsletter #10 (January 4, 2001). You can review these criteria in the Community Events area of the Mountain Empire Net website by clicking on Campo and then on the archived material under General Plan 2020 Criteria

The Sponsor Group also considered three GP2020 scenarios put forward by the DPLU. One alternative (Alternative A) is tightly concentrated community centers with high density housing, a narrow ring of one dwelling unit per acre and outlying land with low density development of one dwelling unit per ten, twenty or forty acres. This is very similar to Campo/Lake Morena. Alternative B has rings of decreasing density around a dense community center with outlying areas of very low density. Alternative C has dense community centers with additional high-density development along transportation corridors such as I-8, I-15, Highways 52 and 94.

Responding to community input the Sponsor Group voted to inform DPLU that Alternative A was the **ONLY** acceptable alternative and we again endorsed the planning criteria and density map the Sponsor Group established last fall. These standards were reflected in the Alternative III map DPLU produced last year and the community has again told DPLU this is what we want.

The final item of business was a short presentation by two of the announced candidates for Jan Foster's Sponsor Group seat.

April 23rd Sponsor Group Meeting

The meeting will be at the Campo Community Center on Monday 23 April at 7:00 PM. A complete agenda is posted in the community and in the Alpine Sun. The agenda includes: CORRESPONDENCE: A) Letter from the Sierra Club requesting support for a Countywide moratorium. COMMITTEES: A) Community Character: G. Webber/J. Foster. OLD BUSINESS: A) Review and comment on Preliminary Engineering Report for Sheridan Road Improvements (tabled at last meeting). B) Formation of the previously approved ad hoc committee to develop community standards/requirements for the proposed SVDP PromiseLand Ranch project (Appoint co-chairpersons, vote on membership, and define charter).(Committee to meet after SVDP submits their Major Use Permit

NEW BUSINESS: A) Election to fill the announced vacancy seat created by Jan Foster's departure at the end of May 2001. The newly elected member will be officially seated commencing June 1, 2001 and will fulfill the remainder of Jan Foster's four-year term. B) Candidates are encouraged to submit letters of intent prior to the call to order on the evening of April 23, 2001. A motion was presented and approved by the sponsor group at the April 9, 2001 meeting to accept nominations from the floor up to the commencement of the election on the evening of April 23, 2001. Each candidate will be invited, in alphabetical order, to publicly address the sponsor group with information they consider relevant to their candidacy. These comments will be limited to five (5) minutes. Sponsor group members will be afforded the opportunity to submit appropriate questions. The election will be conducted by handwritten ballot. PUBLIC DISCUSSION: May include moving scheduled May 28th meeting from Memorial Day.

Ad Hoc Committee on Community Character

This Sponsor Group committee is studying and will define Community Character for Lake Morena/Campo. The committee met March 10th, March 31st and April 14th at Campo Fire & Rescue. The next meetings are May 1st at 7 PM, May 12th at 9 AM and May 15th at 7 PM. All meetings are held at Campo Fire. Members include Larry Johnson, Cliff Northcote, Jan Foster, Pat Noblitt, Janette Mills, Mike Thometz, Glen Webber, Nancy Slaff, Brian Fallgren, Tom Graves, Jean Bates, Shelia Jamison and JC Cook. 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? Please join a meeting or contact a committee member with your ideas on this very important issue. The Committee's goal is to have community character defined, reviewed and adopted by the community and the Sponsor Group by the end of May so that the information can be submitted to the County as part of our final GP2020 statement.

PromiseLand Ranch/Saint Vincent de Paul - April 7th meeting

Even though SVDP sent out two mailers informing the community of their April 7th meeting to discuss their plans, the meeting was not well attended. SVDP staff, their architect, hydrologist, landscape architect and land use consultant presented the plans. Many areas of concern are still being studied by SVDP and the Major Use Permit application will not be ready by April 14th as reported by SVDP. It will probably be the end of April before preliminary answers to issues like access, water and waste water treatment are available and the MUP can be submitted.

As a community service MERIT videotaped the entire three hour session. We will make a copies of the tape available for viewing so you can review what was presented and the questions/answers after the presentation. No handouts were available and the videotape is the only information available. If you would like to view the tape, email your request to thometz@sciti.com or call MERIT at 478-9549 and leave a message

SVDP's plan shows Campo Fire & Rescue and Southern Health Service moving to this site and occupying new

buildings paid for and built by SVDP. Southern Health Services and Campo Fire say they are still studying the possibility of moving some of their operations from Campo to this new site but that a decision has not yet been made.

Apparently SVDP has recognized that there is a great deal of concern in the community about this at risk foster child project to house 240 children and has condensed the proposed layout. This reduced footprint has increased the density of the project. Establishing a new village center is in direct conflict with the criteria approved last fall for GP2020 and with the criteria reaffirmed again April 9th by the Sponsor Group. MERIT believes the density and the intensity of use resulting from this development are totally inappropriate for this rural setting.

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, which is located behind the Post Office (960 Jeb Stuart Road), is open Thursday 12:30 to 3:00 and Saturday 10:00 to 2:00. A special event is scheduled for May 5th Cinco de Mayo during the Spring Festival and they will have extended hours from 9 AM to 4 PM. The famous "Bag Sale" is the premier event for April 19th, 21st, 26th and 28th with many items marked down and bags of clothes and miscellaneous items for just \$3.

Little League Season in Full Swing

Little League play has started and the season goes through June 16th. Games are played Saturday starting at 9AM at the Campo Ballfields across from the Post Office and west of Campo Community Center and there is play most of the day. Stop by and you will love the action. It is great fun.

Spring Festival & Old-Time Days

On May 5th and May 6th the San Diego Railroad Museum in conjunction with other Campo groups will have a big party. Publicity for the Old Time has been spread throughout Southern California and large crowds are expected. Spring Festival will include continuous live entertainment, unique exhibitions with crafts and other items for sale, a food court with a beer and wine garden, activities for kids, steam train rides, railroad speeder rides, displays of historical rail equipment and old automotive equipment, wild west shootouts and other historical enactments. MERIT will have a booth with jewelry made by a local artist who also sells through an exclusive shop in Santa Fe. MERIT will also have jewelry from local rocks and minerals. We will also be available to talk about MERIT and about local issues. We encourage you to attend Spring Festival. Stop by and say hello.

Lake Morena Drawdown

Many of you are aware that the City of San Diego has commenced their draw down of Lake Morena. When they finish late this summer the surface will be reduced to less than 10%. The City of San Diego has ignored all attempts by Bob Shea and the Lake Morena Village Council, to show them the disaster that this action is creating. People from the City dictating to the Back Country is very painful to us. We will suffer because they do not care what happens in the Back Country. The City does not suffer the consequences. In addition to the die off of fish from the shallower water and the higher water temperatures resulting from a shallow lake reduced in volume, many creatures like arroyo toads living in and around tributaries will not survive. A serious problem is the dried algae that is left behind when the lake recedes. This is toxic and is causing respiratory problems, allergies and skin rashes for many who are in the vicinity of lake. None of these environmental problems seems to raise any concern within the City. In addition, the economic impact on the Lake Morena community will be substantial with use of the lake almost totally shut down. It is sad when our ability to control what is best for us is held hostage to downtown interests only intent on maximizing their budget.

Campo Fire & Rescue

The Board meets every month on the third Monday. The May 21st meeting is currently scheduled to have an important item of business on the agenda that requires a quorum (21) of members from the Campo community (this excludes Lake Morena which is a different fire district). Approval of the new By Laws of Campo Fire & Rescue and the new Policies and Procedures is on the agenda. The community as Members of Campo Fire & Rescue must approve revisions to the By Laws and the Policies and Procedures. The agenda for that meeting will be at the Fire Station and at the Old 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. They need to be approved before the June elections and that would facilitate the election process. Both documents are available for your review at the Fire Station, at Campo Community Center and Campo Library (Tu, We, Sa 9-noon, Th 1-8, Fr 1-4).

Final arrangements 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 Steve Chamblin and Ken Price at Premier Roofing in La Mesa about helping, and Premier, in conjunction with San Diego Roofing Contractors Association, has agreed to donate almost all of the materials, transport them to the site, and to donate their services to roof the building. The cost to the Fire Department was between \$12,000 and \$15,000 to do this job. MERIT is also arranging for disposing of the old roofing. The project will cost the Fire Department about \$1,000. MERIT and the Campo Fire Board want to thank Premier Roofing and the Roofing Contractors Assn. for their help. This donation will save the Fire Department at least \$12,000. They do not have that money, yet they must repair a County building that leaks like a sieve. Without donations from the community Campo Fire would not be able to operate. The small

amount of money provided annually by the County is already spent. The increases in fuel costs and electricity costs are particularly difficult. We ask the Campo community to contribute \$65 if possible or \$50 or whatever you can.

Remember, fire season is coming up with the added demands on fire protection.

In addition, you can help by volunteering to assist the volunteer fire fighters with the tear-off of the old roof. The preliminary date to remove the old roof is May 20th. We Need Your Help to remove the old roof and Campo Fire needs DONATIONS to offset the \$1,000 of roofing material they will have to buy. Contact the Fire Station or call MERIT and leave your name and phone number. Your help is needed.

Recycling Center Now Open

MERIT Recycling is open for donations every Sunday and Monday 9AM to 1PM. The center sells the recycled goods and contributes all revenues in excess of expenses to the community including Campo Fire, Friends of the Library, various Mountain Empire youth activities and to MERIT to offset costs of publishing this newsletter. No money is paid for materials donated. MERIT members volunteer their time to work at the center. We hope that the community will participate and help make this a success.

MERIT Recycling accepts: **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.

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 also publishes the Community Calendar on the Mountain Empire Net. This calendar is updated regularly. As soon as the information is submitted the calendar is updated. The Community Calendar can be accessed at www.mtnempire.net/Merit.html. On the Mountain Empire Net site click on Community Events, then on Campo and then on the MERIT logo. The current newsletter is published on line on Tuesday before the mail delivery and can be found at www.mtnempire.net/MeritLetter.html

Campo Community Center

Members of the community have expressed their dismay and shock that the Campo Community Center has been renamed without input or consent from the community. How do you feel about this?

MERIT

MERIT has an information package on SVDP, PromiseLand Ranch and General Plan 2020 containing recent newspaper articles, editorials and letters in local papers. This information will be sent to you upon request. Call 478.9549 and leave your name and address or send an email. As information becomes available on the SVDP Major Use Permit we will include this material in the package.

MERIT has also set up a site on Mountain Empire Net which archives all the information on MERIT and the PromiseLand project. This archive contains all the newsletters starting in June 2000 and the MERIT Position Paper. Articles and editorials and information bulletins on the project are being added. Check the archive site at www.mtnempire.net/MeritArchive.html