

Campo/Lake Morena Calendar

June 21st Thu. **Friends of the Library** 9:30 AM Campo Elementary.
June 25th Mon. **Lake Morena/Campo Sponsor Group** 7 PM - 9 PM Campo Community Center
June 28th Thu. **Southern Health Services Board Meeting** 8 AM Campo Community Center
July 1st Sun. **Lake Morena Upper Village Water District** 7 PM 29893 Canadian Honker Road
July 5th Thu. **Lake Morena Lower Village Water District** 7:15 PM Lake Morena Fire Station
July 9th Mon. **Lake Morena Volunteer Fire Association** 7 PM Lake Morena Fire Station
July 11th Wed. **Lake Morena Village Council** 7PM Lake Morena Fire Station
July 17th Tue. **Campo Fire & Rescue** - Community meeting , Election of Directors and Board meeting - 7 PM Campo Fire
July 19th Thu. **Friends of the Library** 9:30 AM Campo Elementary
July 23rd Mon. **Lake Morena/Campo Sponsor Group** 7 PM - 9 PM Campo Community Center
July 26th Thu. **Southern Health Services Board Meeting** 8 AM 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 5:00 Saturday and Sunday

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

VFW Steak Fry First Friday @ 5 PM and 3rd Sat @ 4 PM

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



M E R I T

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Campo, CA 91906

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DATE CHANGE !! Campo Fire & Rescue Directors election changed to Tuesday July 17th – Tuesday Sponsor Group Meeting Monday June 25th at Campo Community Center at 7:00 PM **SVDP PromiseLand final presentation before filing MUP

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Newsletter #16 - 21 June 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."

MASH Crash in Las Vegas - Father Carroll and SVDP encounter problems

The Las Vegas Review Journal (www.lvrj.com and search under MASH Village) recently ran a series of articles detailing problems SVDP and Carroll have had with their homeless shelter and with their "one-stop" service concept. SVDP has operated homeless shelters in Las Vegas for six years. They closed a 160 bed woman's shelter last year and appear to be ready to close the family shelter despite free land, \$5 million they received in 1995, and an annual operating subsidy of \$500,000 (all from Las Vegas and Clark County). SVDP has not been able to raise the \$5 million they promised in 1995 for new buildings. SVDP also told the City of Las Vegas they are taking up to \$1 million a year from their San Diego operations to fund the Las Vegas project. Carroll says, "I'm pouring money into MASH from San Diego I can't afford." One wonders what impact the transfer of San Diego funds and their inability to raise money will have on their proposed PromiseLand project.

These articles contain some pretty strong words coming out of Las Vegas and raise questions about SVDP and Carroll's management style and ability. The paper quotes Carroll "We made mistakes (*a phrase we here in Campo have heard often*) ... we were not as top notch as we thought we were." A former Board member complained "... (SVDP has) done a horrendous job of building community relations." The acrimony between Carroll and the city reached a level where the Mayor said "... they lied to me. I won't tolerate a lie." Carroll called the Mayor "... no man of honor." A priest on the MASH board who negotiated with the city on behalf of MASH characterized Carroll's behavior as "... arrogant and unacceptable ..." Of course the victims of this power struggle are the homeless of Las Vegas, who may find themselves back on the street after SVDP pulls out of LV leaving behind a shelter, medical clinic, crisis intervention center and winter shelter for men. Carroll "... ignored advice ..." and the self-described "hustler priest" said "... we recently inked a deal to develop a 600 acre ranch for troubled boys in Campo ..." These statements should give you pause to consider. One statement quoted in the Las Vegas Review Journal repeats a theme we heard and it sends a warning signal "If you know anything about me, I do not like people telling me what to do." Carroll has said on the record that he does not want public monies because he wants to do it his way and does not want anyone telling him how to do things. Private money allows him to do whatever he wants to do. Is Campo going to be the next "management" mistake in Carroll's career.

PromiseLand Problems in San Diego

In addition to the problems in Las Vegas which may affect SVDP in San Diego, the Union Tribune reported a lost donation in the millions of dollars to PromiseLand Ranch. The Sunday June 3rd edition had a front page article on a lawsuit against General Dynamics involving \$101 million in damages that was overturned on appeal. The lawyer was going to give most of his multi-million dollar fee to SVDP. The story reports "Carroll planned to name part of the complex Monaghan Town. The project is likely to be delayed while his organization seeks money from other sources, Carroll said."

More bashing by outsiders - Fox News O'Reilly Factor Dismisses Campo/Lake Morena on National TV

In an effort to promote the proposed PromiseLand project, Joe Carroll of St. Vincent de Paul Management, Inc. appeared on the nationwide Fox News show "O'Reilly Factor" shown May 17th. In doing so Carroll and SVDP allowed Bill O'Reilly to literally trash the foster care program in San Diego County. In an obvious attempt to justify this multimillion dollar mega development, Joe Carroll cast a shadow on the reputations of caring and supportive foster families, many of them in the Mountain Empire area. There was no mention of the thousand of successful interventions where foster parents have opened their hearts and their homes to foster children. Instead, foster families were alluded to as child abusers and their homes were characterized as mere pastures where children would stay for a couple of weeks with no stability. It was no surprise that Saint Vincent de Paul did not mention the money they would receive for taking care of these same children. While a foster family receives a few hundred dollars a month to care for a child, SVDP has said they would receive on average \$3,000 per month to care for these same children.

Later in the program O'Reilly disenfranchised the entire Lake Morena/Campo community. Asked about resistance to the project Carroll said "Oh yes. I mean there are neighbors who think it is going to be too much for the neighborhood. It is a rather rural area. They are afraid we will bring too many people." O'Reilly's response was "**Nah, forget about them.**" Are the people of Lake Morena and Campo not important? How does one just forget about a community that is working to preserve and protect the environment and way of life that attracted us to the area. Of course maybe we should begin to expect this kind of attitude from outsiders, after all isn't that the same attitude the City of San Diego is taking as they drain the life out of Lake Morena?

Possibly because Father Carroll thought he had "inked a deal to develop (PromiseLand) a 600 acre ranch for troubled boys in Campo", when asked by O'Reilly about building the ranch, he indicated it was almost a sure thing. Carroll said "We are beginning the process going through the permit that you have to get - a Major Use Permit." O'Reilly "But you will get it, right?" Carroll "We're pretty sure. We're confident. You're never sure till the final vote is taken." O'Reilly "**Well, if you don't get it, let us know and we will do something about it.**" O'Reilly apparently has decided he will make decisions for the Campo/Lake Morena community, for the Sponsor Group, for DPLU and for the Board of Supervisors.

As a community service MERIT has purchased both the transcript and the video of this program. If you are interested in viewing the video and reading the transcript, please contact us. We also have the videos of the two recent Channel 4 Cox Cable programs - one on PromiseLand and one on Father Carroll - and we will provide these for your viewing. Call MERIT.

Campo Fire & Rescue

At the May 21st meeting the community approved the revised By Laws for Campo Fire and Rescue. The committee of community volunteers lead by John Ing and Shannon Simental who revised the By Laws earned your appreciation for a job well done. The community had the opportunity to see the new roof which was completed early. The efforts of all the volunteers who helped is very much appreciated. Mr. Fire, John Ing, brought the pizza, Nancy Slaff and volunteers from Homemakers brought bottled water and cold drinks and Bruce and Penny Willett from MERIT put in a hard days work. The Campo Fire firefighters who are all volunteers also worked long and hard on this project. MERIT is happy we were able to arrange for the new roof which ended up costing Campo Fire \$200 because everything including trash removal was donated. Premier Roofing (619.667.3764) in Spring Valley , one of the finest roofers of commercial buildings in San Diego County, their President, Steve Chamblin, along with Ken Price, and the San Diego Roofing Contractors Association provided the pro bono work and we thank them for their invaluable help.

We also want to thank the ever present **Freedom Ranch** workers. Anywhere in the community there is work that needs to get done, the Freedom Ranch crew is there. These men are a very valuable asset to our community. They are there to lend a helping hand, whether at the Thrift Store, the Fire House, the Senior Breakfast, helping at the Community Center or where ever needed. Take a moment when you see them to thank them..

Campo Fire will meet Tuesday June 17th for **nomination of Board members** to be elected at the July meeting. Three Board members complete their two year terms in July. Nominations from the floor for the Board positions can be made at the July 17th meeting and anyone who would like to serve the community in this very important role should come to the meeting, The community is encouraged to attend because you vote on the candidates and elect those who will manage Campo Fire & Rescue. **July meeting date changed to Tuesday.**

Lake Morena Village Council

Lake Morena Village Council elected Board members at the June 6th meeting. The terms of Marilyn Moskowitz and Pete Sayatovich end June 2002. Re-elected members are Bob Shea and Jim Edwards and new members are Pete Heinig, Chris Harris and Pat Heinig.

Discussion of Healthcare District June 23rd Important meeting

Dr. Dennis Wilcox, Grossmont HealthCare District Board of Directors, will discuss the Grossmont District which covers the Campo/Lake Morena area. The meeting is at the Campo Senior Building on Sheridan Road at 4:00 PM. Bring your questions and concerns regarding this very important subject which affects all of us in the East County. We know the Sharp/Grossmont merger of affected the residents of this Hospital district. Dr. Wilcox will discuss this problem. Southern Health Services is exploring the idea of withdrawing the area they cover from the Grossmont District and setting up a separate district. Would it be feasible for East County to have its own HealthCare District?

Southern Health Services "What is in it for Campo" meeting

SHS made a community presentation on May 16th. "What's in it for Campo" showed their plans to incorporate our volunteer fire department and Southern Health's clinic as part of the proposed PromiseLand Ranch on Hwy 94. The proposed plans include a 31,100 sq. ft clinic for SHS, and even talk of a hospital in the future. Additionally, there are plans for a future drug rehab facility, a mental health facility (formerly elder care), and architecture that will apparently mirror SVDP Inc's grand design. This facility is not designed for Campo but is be the center of all SHS operations covering the area from Jacumba to Alpine which is their definition of "Mountain Empire".SHS provided minimal last minute public notice about the meeting and the attendance was low. SHS requested approval from the audience to videotape them and that permission was granted **IF** a copy of the videotape were made available to the public. SHS personnel agreed and videotaped the presentation. When a request was made to obtain a copy of the videotape so we could make it available to the community, permission was denied despite the commitment to provide it. MERIT wonders why SHS would prevent the public from seeing the video of a **public meeting meant to inform the public.**

Currently the land projected for this development is not zoned for commercial or industrial, and their immediate neighbor will be a horse ranch. According to SVDP their Major Use Permit will incorporate the clinic and fire department and SVDP will pay all the costs. In addition, SVDP has said they will pay **ALL** the costs of building both facilities and, for the fire department, give or lease at a nominal rate that building to the County for use by the fire department.

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. 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.

We sort out the materials for you so you can put the glass and plastic and aluminum cans together. Very simple and very easy. No line, no check in, no money to pay, you are in and out in a flash. Come see us and bring your recyclables.

Campo Hills

This project, which was approved many years ago, is still in escrow according to local sources. This development of 222 mobile homes/modular homes for seniors located at the north end of Sheridan Road will have a major impact on Campo. One of the conditions of the project is that the developer must upgrade and rebuild Sheridan Road which is the access to the project. The repairs and upgrade to Sheridan Road have been an issue recently before the Back Country Revitalization Committee and the Sponsor Group. Repairing Sheridan Road will make a major section of the community available for development of residences and community service. This should also support the proposed Camp Lockett State Park, the Campo Community Center and the Senior Center. The County owns land along Sheridan Road and at last report planned to remove the storage containers used to store County records and vacate that space.

AD Hoc Committee

This group has continued their hard work on a statement of community character for Lake Morena/Campo. Meetings were scheduled for May 29th, June 1st and June 4th and June 17th. A final statement will be ready for distribution to the Sponsor Group for consideration and adoption at the June 25th meeting.

New Casino on the Campo Indian Reservation

There has been a lot of discussion recently about how there is a need for jobs in the community. However, most people do not see this need and many of the residents in this area moved here for exactly the opposite reason. We wanted to escape where all the jobs were, to escape the hustle and bustle and frenzied activity where there are lots of people and traffic. We wanted a place that was dark at night and wanted to live some place that was quiet and peaceful and full of nature and scenery. Now we will have a new Casino just a few minutes east of Campo on Interstate 8 that will open this summer. The Union Tribune reports employment will be 500. Will local residents be hired? Will area unemployment be eliminated? Will residents change from jobs in the City? Since this project was built ten times larger than originally proposed, what will be the impact on water and sewage and traffic in the area? Many residents are expressing concern about this very large project being dropped down in the Back Country and its impact on the way of life in this area and the growth inducing effects.

The first jobs applications were made available to members of local Indian Nations and to local residents. According to an employee at Viejas who lives locally and who applied to the Golden Acorn, more than 100 Viejas employees, who are already approved for work in a casino, have applied. Both local realtors and local residents are being contacted by people living in Potrero, Alpine, El Cajon and other cities near San Diego who want to move here if they get a job in the Casino. If the full 500 are hired and consideration is given to local residents and to members of local Indian Nations, unemployment in Campo and in the local Indian Nations should vanish.

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 and regularly updates the Community Calendar on Mountain Empire Net. 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 Library

Friends of the Library will finance a Summer Reading Program (sign ups starting June 26th). The program is each Thursday at 3PM and Friday at 2 PM with crafts, a storyteller, a magician and prizes for the participants. Sign up your children and grandchildren. Campo Library now has all the documentation on file that members of the Sponsor Group receive. The County is sending a copy of the information to the Library concurrently with sending the material to the Sponsor Group. MERIT has also copied all of the available minutes from Sponsor Group meetings for the past six years and these are also available in the Library.

Second Annual "Sizzlin' Summer Community Picnic"

Campo Elementary PTA had a very successful event June 2nd 1:30-4:30 PM that generated food for a local food bank. MERIT members provided the booths, set them up and took them down after the Picnic and helped the PTA clean up. Many thanks to Sam and Heather Hinds and to many of their Border Patrol friends and associates who organized and then worked on this event.

FREE Dental Service for Kids

Thursday June 28th all kids 6-18 can have their teeth sealed for free at the Southern Indian Health Center's Campo Dental Clinic (36190 Church Road #2). You need to call 478-2225 before June 28th for a free screening appointment BEFORE the sealant application. The Dental Clinic is staffed by an on-duty dentist five days a week and approximately 75% of their patients are local residents. The adjacent medical clinic is staffed by a full time medical doctor and is also open five days a week.

Boy Scouts Explorer Post #8997 sponsored by Border Patrol

This group of local youth needs help. Fund-raising and sponsors are needed to provide uniforms, equipment and funding of Explorer competitions and community service functions. In addition SD Border Patrol is sponsoring the annual week long Explorer Academy and the cost is \$220. If you can help in any way, call Ed Doherty at the Campo Border Patrol Office at 478-5444, ext. 601.

Campo/Lake Morena Sponsor Group

SVDP will make their FINAL presentation to the community at this meeting. On the Agenda: Presentation by County DPLU staff on working with our community to develop our GP2020; letter of LaPosta Band re land acquisition application; purchase of local land by Superior Ready Mix Concrete; presentation on Tecate Port of Entry by Tecate SG Chairman; Buckman Springs Road Telecommunications Facility Review; LaPosta Circle Telecommunications Facility Review; SVDP PromiseLand Ranch final presentation to the community.

Campo Transfer Station -New Hours and Possible Closing

The rumors are true. Effective August 1st the Campo Transfer Station is reducing its service and opening on SATURDAY only from 8AM to 4PM. Boulevard's transfer station is also reducing hours. Informally local residents are being told that this is a prelude to closing the both transfer stations. While MERIT is open for your recyclables, we will all be greatly inconvenienced by this reduction in service. Each and every one of you should express your feeling on this issue to Supervisor Dianne Jacob and to the Sponsor Group and the Back Country Revitalization Committee.