



**JUNE 2024**  
**SOUTH VISTA NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

### THE FUTURE OF GREEN OAK RANCH

The announcement several months ago that the trustees of Green Oak Ranch wanted to sell 110 of the ranch's 138 acres, moving its ministry of residential recovery to the remaining property, has inspired an outpouring of comment and concern among South Vista residents.

**History:** Green Oak Ranch has a rich history dating back to the early 1800s when it was part of the "Rancho Buena Vista" Mexican land grant and home to the Kumeyaay and Luiseno Indian tribes. During the Great Depression, it served as a camp for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), providing jobs and environmental conservation efforts under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" program.

In 1942, the ranch was leased by the U.S. Army as "Camp Vista" and served as a base for the Western Defense Command, responsible for protecting the coastline from attacks during World War II. As many as 800 men were stationed there at one time. After the war, it also housed the Navy while they worked on a local water conservation project.

In 1950, the Union Rescue Mission purchased the property and renamed it "Green Oak Boys Camp," using it as a Christian retreat for at-risk youth and employing men in recovery as ranch hands.

Today, Green Oak Ranch operates as a rustic retreat center offering venues for events, retreats, camps, and weddings, while also providing a long-term, Christian-based residential substance abuse treatment program for men. *[History provided by Francis Dumler.]*

In May, SD County Supervisor Jim Desmond led a county approval to begin negotiations to purchase the property to be redeveloped as a "regional campus for healing". Under this plan, more than 63 acres would be *Cont. P. 2* →

### SVC LEADERS ELECTED FOR NEW YEAR

South Vista Communities convened its Annual Meeting on June 13 to elect the Board of Directors for 2024-2025 -

President	Francis Dumler
Vice President	Pia Romano
Secretary	Kathy Bagwell
Treasurer	Pia Romano
At large	Cindy Farfan Stephanie Jackel Tazheen Nizam

We hope to see you at a Community Meeting before too long!

### APOLOGY

Over the years of my sending out SVC's newsletter, South Vista residents have let me know when they have moved or otherwise wish to be removed from the emailing list. Sad to lose you, but happy to oblige.

As a result of the last few months' kerfuffle of Cox moving emails to Yahoo, one confounding result is that the only remaining SVC emailing list is several years old (Judy Ritter is mayor, according to the list).

Thus, recent changes have been lost.

If you received this newsletter in error, please let me know and I will correct the list.

And apologies for the bother.

## THE FUTURE OF GREEN OAK RANCH

(Cont.)

preserved as open space with hiking trails, continuing its current use.

Vista City is also interested in purchasing the property. On May 28, Vista City Attorney Walter Chung announced that the City Council in closed session had authorized him to obtain an appraisal of the Green Oak Ranch property.

News sources have stated that Solutions for Change has expressed interest in the property, as well.

According to a document from Supv. Desmond, the ranch's trustees are acting on the deceased owner's wishes that the property being sold will continue to be a site for healing and rehabilitation, continuing the previous type of ministry.

**For South Vista residents:** Vista City Council member Dan O'Donnell has issued an invitation to a town hall meeting about Green Oak Ranch:

*I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to join me for a Town Hall on Sunday, June 30th from 12:30PM until 3PM taking place at the Vista Civic Center in the Morris Vance Community Room.*

*The topic of discussion will be the County plans for the purchase of the Green Oak Ranch 120-acre property located off of Sycamore at 1237 Green Oak Rd, Vista, CA 92081.*

*We are seeking community input and discussion over the County of San Diego's desire to turn this location into a Regional County Behavioral Health Campus for detox beds, sober living residences, and long-term board-and-care spaces.*

**Guest Speaker: County Board of Supervisor Jim Desmond**

**Location of meeting: 200 Civic Center Drive, Vista, CA 92084 Morris Vance Room**

South Vista Communities hopes there will also be information provided about the City of Vista's plans for the Green Oak Ranch property, if the City purchases it.

## NORM HALUS HONORED FOR LONG COMMUNITY SERVICE



Former mayor Judy Ritter and Mayor John Franklin congratulate Norm Halus on the installation of the plaque, April 17, honoring his service (Live Oak Road and Lupine Hills Drive):

*In appreciation of Norm's 32 years of devoted, dedicated service & his love for the Shadowridge Community serving as a Shadowridge Homeowners Association Board Member, Architectural & Greenbelt Committees. Norm's endeavors were always for the residents of Shadowridge.*

*Thank you, Norm*

## STONEMARK DEVELOPMENT UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Construction of houses in the new Stonemark development on Buena Vista Drive is moving along. The new neighborhood will contain 19 single-family houses with attached ADUs.

The property, originally in the county, was annexed into Vista several years ago.



# DITCH THE DIRT!

How you can prevent soil erosion:



Stabilize any bare soil or unvegetated areas with mulch, gravel, or type of vegetation.



Don't discharge mud or dirt from your property to storm drains.



Use temporary solutions such as sand bags or other soil stabilizers until a permanent alternative takes place



Don't over irrigate areas with little to no vegetation

**Exposed bare soil is easily swept away by rain, transporting runoff with dirt, debris, and pollutants to storm drains and local creeks.**




### SOUTH VISTA COMMUNITIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President -	Francis Dumler	Shadowridge
Vice President -	Pia Romano	Shadowridge
Secretary -	Kathy Bagwell	Shadowridge
Treasurer -	Pia Romano	Shadowridge
At Large -	Cindy Farfan	Creekside
	Stephanie Jackel	Creekside
	Tazheen Nizam	Shadowridge