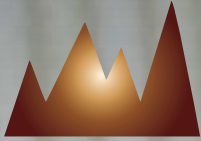


HAPPY HOLIDAYS

SUMMIT LIFE

VOLUME 7



DECEMBER 2013



Three-year-old Summit resident Dahlia Flores captures Santa's attention at Westfield's Topanga mall. Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo.

RESIDENTS ATTACK ILLEGAL DUMPING

WOOLSEY CANYON CLEANUP GETS MAJOR ASSIST FROM COUNTY SUPERVISOR, BOEING, SCOUTING GROUPS AND THE SUMMIT



control the weather.” If and when the weather does improve, volunteer workers including representatives of the Wildlife Waystation will repel into the canyon to retrieve everything from bottles, glass and old television sets to computers, pallets and rugs. The detritus will be bagged and left at the Four Horse Turnout for county pickup.

To prevent further dumping or at least to slow it down, four no-dumping signs were built at Bruce’s expense and placed around the perimeter of the turnout with the help of Summit landscaper Rodolfo Aguilar.

“When the sun comes out, you’re going to see that mobile homeowners, civic organizations and a government agency can indeed work together for common cause,” Bruce said. Residents who spot illegal dumping are asked to call the Sheriff’s Lost Hills Substation at 818- 878-1808. ❖

Mountain View homeowner Bruce Kuhn, left, gets help from Summit staff member Rodolfo Aguilar prior to installing no dumping signs around the perimeter of Woolsey Canyon’s Four Horse Turnout. The turnout evolved over the years into a dumpsite for old furniture and other detritus. *Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo.*

Bruce Kuhn is a tall, lanky, former L.A. county harbor patrolman who is used to getting things done. He almost single handedly opened up Micronesia to tourism after World War II and recently became sick and tired of seeing trash dumped off of Woolsey Canyon from the Four Horse Turnout below his home in Mountain View Estates.

“They were dumping whole apartment loads of furniture from the turnout into the canyon,” Bruce told Summit Life. “As I sat on my view deck sipping Pinot Noir, I couldn’t believe my eyes. A natural resource was being destroyed, and it was up to the folks around here to do something about it,” he said.

Within two hours of Bruce’s call to the office of county supervisor Michael Antonovich, the county’s illegal dumping team arrived and hauled away two full size couches, four mattresses, and a huge television console. It took the former Marina Del Rey SCUBA diving officer another 20 hours to enlist the cleanup services of Boeing, some 15 residents and the local Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops.

The cleanup itself has been delayed twice by the threat of rain. “Maybe we’ll get to it on Saturday, December 14, and maybe not,” said Bruce. “I’m a good promoter, but I can’t



Rugged terrain below Woolsey Canyon Road is the last resting place for old, worn furniture such as the couches pictured here. County supervisor Michael Antonovich recently participated in a campaign to clean up the mess along with area residents and local civic organizations. *Photo courtesy of Bruce Kuhn.*

AS A ROOKIE NIGHT MANAGER, STEVE VENABLE IS VULNERABLE

What do you say to a loud and intoxicated reveler who just gave you the bird for telling him to either quiet down or leave the Clubhouse party?

That's the kind of question Steve Venable is fielding these days from his mentor, the Summit's veteran resident night Manager Madeline Gamble. He's the new rookie on the block, having shared night management duties with her on alternate weeks for just two months.

"There's no rulebook here," Madeline explains. "Being a night manager is a hands on job that takes time to learn. In the case of the reveler, it's what you don't say that's important. You remain calm and respectful and explain that you are simply enforcing park rules that prohibit alcohol in the clubhouse and pool areas."

"Nine times out of ten, people like the partier will fall into line simply because they don't want a confrontation. And if they refuse to comply and make a fuss, you tell them that they are forcing you to call the sheriff's department and shut the party down," said Madeline.

That's where trust comes in. After almost six years on the job, Madeline is on a first name basis with the county's first responders. She doesn't call for assistance often, but when she does, they respond...pronto. It will take time for Steve to earn that kind of trust from sheriff's deputies and firemen. "He's big, self effacing and anxious to do a good job," said Madeline. "They'll get to like him."

Steve is 55, stands 6' 2" inches, loves sports and is a real softy when it comes to pets. To email him, you'll have to go through his dog and cat first. His email address is diegocassy@yahoo.com. Diego is the name of his 15-year-old Lhasa Apso that's half blind and suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Cassy is a 17-year-old cat



Steve Venable, the Summit's new night co-manager, has the size and smarts for the job. And he's got all the technical monitoring stuff including closed circuit TV, a computer and smart phone. But dogs and cats have his number. *Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo.*

that's going bald.

"Both animals were wonderful birthday gifts," Steve explained. "The cat misses my wife who passed away six months ago. Diego is named for the City of San Diego where I grew up as a Navy brat and hope to return some day. The two animals have always been near and dear to me, especially now during this lonely period in my life. I could never, ever put them down."

Steve first arrived in Los Angeles in 1986 and lucked-out. He landed a job in the shipping and receiving department of Telecom International, a global independent electronics-stocking distributor in Agoura Hills. He eventually rose through the ranks to head the department. When a recession hit after 20 years on the job, Steve was laid off, but had a substantial 401K plan and some profit

sharing investments to cushion the blow. He now works for Medallion Enterprises in Chatsworth.

Steve believes that the part-time night manager position is a dream job. He monitors the Club House on closed circuit TV, answers phone calls and occasionally drives around the park to make sure there's no mischief going on. He's fully aware of the fact that things can go terribly awry like a water main breaking or a fire shorting out the park's electric supply. (See Summit Life, July 2013).

"But for now, knock on wood, my only problem is a minor one," Steve told Summit Life. "I have to make sure that my hands stay on the arms of my lounge chair when I occasionally nod off during the night. Otherwise, Diego might bite them. He's demented you know, and thinks my fingers are sausages." ❖

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

JONNA TODD WANTS YOU TO GET OFF YOUR LAZY YOU KNOW WHAT AND TAKE A SUNRISE WALK

New park resident Jonna Todd calls the Summit “Camp Tranquility.” “This is a great place for an active lifestyle where each glorious day begins with a Sunrise walk,” Jonna told Summit Life. Walking or “all terrain fitness” is an important feature of Jonna’s growing business.” Her company name is “Free 2Be Fit,” and the emphasis is on “fitness beyond the gym.”

“In some ways, the park is almost too tranquil,” said Jonna. “That’s why my business partner and I intend to actively encourage park residents to get off their duffs and rid themselves of all that extra holiday poundage by exercising and eating right,” she pointed out.

You guessed it. The Summit’s newest occupant is a drill sergeant. But she’s a friendly drill sergeant with a mission to encourage healthy living in people of all ages, shapes and sizes.

The Washington State native was diagnosed with stage zero cancer in her mid-30s. The suddenness and potential severity of the illness created a challenge that drove Jonna to learn all she could about health and nutrition. By focusing her studies on natural therapies, disease management and prevention, Jonna was able to recover her health, beat the cancer, and repair her immune system.

Illness also changed the life style of her business partner Silvia Hogan. The Simi Valley resident suffered from an eating disorder and eventually came to not only understand the emotional barriers that people have with eating, but the tendency to use food as a comfort mechanism.

Both women hold Certified Nutrition Consultant certificates from the Trinity College of Natural



Health experts Jonna Todd, right, and Silvia Hogan workout at poolside. Jonna, a new Summit resident, is a partner with Silvia in “Free 2Be Fit,” a health and fitness company.

Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo

Health and are Certified Lifestyle Educators. Jonna is a Master Herbalist from Trinity. Silvia is a Certified Personal Trainer, accredited by ACE, the American Counsel of Exercise.

“Getting back to those Sunrise walks,” Jonna noted, “be sure and have breakfast before you go. It’s the most important meal of the day.” A no

cost introduction to “Free 2Be Fit” is planned soon. In the meantime, you can learn more about the program by calling Jonna at 818-932-9412 or Silvia at 805-428-4699. ❖

AROUND THE TOWN

VALLEY HAPPENINGS, DECEMBER - JANUARY



Visit Santa Claus

Every day until Christmas at Westfield Topanga, 6600 Topanga Boulevard, Canoga Park, 91303. (818) 715-0992.

This Santa's real name is Steve Eastis and he's back by popular demand. You'll find him in the lower level Canyon next to the Christmas tree from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday and from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the other days of the week.



Story Time

Every Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Canyon at Westfield Topanga.

Special storytellers read a new book each week followed by entertainment for children that may include live performances, sing-a-longs, arts and crafts and more.



Piano Concerts While You Shop

Pianist Jeremy Weinglass performs at Westfield Topanga every Friday, Saturday and Sunday through December 31. You'll find him at the keyboard from 3 to 6 p.m. on Fridays, 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and 1 to 4 p.m. on Sundays.

The project is supported as part of the arts development fee from the L.A. Department of Cultural Affairs.



Holiday Gift Wrapping

on Friday, December 21 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Northridge Fashion Center, 9301 Tampa Avenue.

If you're running low on time this holiday season, be sure to stop by the gift-wrapping table hosted by the Kidney Foundation. They can transform your gift into a work of art in a matter of minutes. Their table is located on the upper level near the Disney Store.



The Elves and the Shoemaker

is a whimsical retelling of the classic tale about the gentle nature of giving. Where: The West Valley Playhouse, 7242 Owensmouth Avenue, Canoga Park, 91393. 818-884-1907.

When: School program on Thursday, December 19 at 10 a.m.; Regular program on Saturday, December 21 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Christmas Eve program December 24 at 10 a.m. Tickets: \$8 children; \$12 adults.



Explore the Bible

at the Summit Clubhouse every Thursday beginning January 9, 2014, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Summit residents Sharon and Fletcher Isler

will help students explore the teachings of the old and new covenants beginning with the topic "Why Study." A time of fellowship with follow the half hour study session with refreshments provided.

SUMMIT LIFE

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Editor - Garry Wormser

Editorial Assistant - Debbie Berini

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representative/representante
lisseth123@yahoo.com



Elizabeth Burgos
Latin America Travel Expert

888.319.8233 • liz@sagitartravel.com
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