

SUMMIT LIFE

VOLUME 2

JULY 2013

SO YOU WANT
TO BE A
RESIDENT
MANAGER?

SEE PAGE 2

Summit night manager Madoline Gamble is shown with county firefighters Chris Allender, left, and Jon Heller in front of Chatsworth Fire Station Number 75. She has worked with the nearby station for more than five years in serving and protecting Summit residents. *Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo*

A LONG DAY'S NIGHT FOR MADOLINE GAMBLE

From Page 1

BY GARRY WORMSER

Friday, May 31, dawned warm and clear at the Summit. At about 1:00 p.m., Madoline Gamble, the Summit's resident night manager, received an emergency call from a day nurse for David Harel, the park's alternate night manager. According to the nurse, the man would not answer his doorbell and his dogs were left unattended in his yard.

Harel, 65, was known to have a heart condition, and Madoline feared for the worst. She called the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the Sheriff's Department. Upon arrival, the first responders and Madoline found Harel deceased in his mobile home.

Suddenly, things began to happen at warp speed for the night manager. A doctor had to be found to sign off on the death certificate before the morgue could be called. Then the man's next of kin had to be located and notified.

Sometime between 1:30 p.m.

and 3 p.m., a brush fire erupted in the down slope rear yard of a Summit mobile home overlooking Woolsey Canyon Road. Police later apprehended four teenagers who were believed to have started the blaze. They were charged with allegedly using a gasoline powered saw to steal "Aquavi" cactus plants in order to make tequila.

As firefighters rushed back up Woolsey Canyon for the second time that day, the electricity went out, affecting some 1,800 homes in Southern California Edison's service territory. That's when the Park's electric entrance gate stopped working. Anxious residents forced entry through the double doors while Madoline was busy opening the back emergency gate. That's the gate further up the hill that resident's should use when the main gate fails.

"In my five year's as night manager, I've never been so overwhelmed with phone calls," Madoline explained "Yes, SCE is fixing the problem," she told residents. "No the problem is outside the park. A small brush fire allegedly caused by a power saw

burned a power pole and blew-out a transformer. No, I don't know when it will be fixed," she explained.

By the time Harel's body was removed, his dog's picked up by animal control, and the electrical circuit breakers reset in the park for the second time, Madoline's long day's journey into night finally ended. It was close to 9 p.m. and she was glad to call it quits. "I was even more stressed than earlier in the week when some park water lines busted," Madoline said. "The Summit is a small city, you know, and it never really sleeps."

To sleep soundly in this or any other city, there are important things you should know. "If you smoke when walking in the park, watch your cigarette ashes and be certain that your cigarette is completely snuffed out," Madoline warned. "If you barbecue, use gas or charcoal, not wood. And don't let little children walk or play in the park without supervision. They could stray into the brush and run into a rattlesnake before you know it," she said. Call 818- 954-0476 if you need to reach Madoline or alternate night manager Mike Medina. ❖

THE BUSINESS CARD BULLETIN BOARD

The business card bulletin board is designed to allow park residents to rely more on each other for trade and professional services. We will carry your printed business cards in the next three issue of Summit Life for free. If you like the idea and want it to grow, we will grow with you by only charging a nominal fee after three issues to cover the printing cost of expanding the bulletin board itself. ❖

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

TWO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS HANG THEIR DOMESTIC SHINGLE AT THE SUMMIT

New Summit residents Khená and Eric Grant hold divergent positions as medical professionals.

Khená practices Western medicine as an intensive care nurse. Eric practices traditional Chinese medicine as a licensed counselor for a herbal company.

“I guess you can say that we work on two different sides of the same medical coin,” the couple explained. Their east/west relationship has produced two girls to date, Emma 4, and Phoebe 16 months. A third child is on the way.

Eric, 32, earned his B.S. degree at the University of Connecticut and a four-year MSTCM degree from Emperor’s College, Santa Monica, in 2007. That’s where he met Khená, 32. A native of Cambodia, she cares for patients in the ICU at UCLA’s Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center.

“Our east/west educations make for a kind of yin and yang relationship,” the couple explained. “Shortly after we met, Eric had a fever and covered himself with a blanket to stay warm,” Khená said. “I argued that he should remove the blanket and cool his system down.” Those occasional disagreements actually add spice to our marriage, Khená and Eric noted.

Home life during the workweek is a little bit like a train station, according to the couple. “We pass



THE GRANT FAMILY

Eric and Khená Grant are shown with their two daughters, Phoebe, 16 months, and Emma, 4. The family moved into the Summit five months ago from an apartment in Woodland Hills.

Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo.

like ship’s in the night on schedules that only let us relax on the weekends,” explained Eric. “That’s when we can play with the kids and kick back with our shoes off and enjoy our new home,” said Khená.

The couple moved to the Summit five months ago from

a Woodland Hills apartment that seemed to shrink as the children came along. “I tend to think of things holistically and the entire quality of our home life has improved up here where it’s quiet and peaceful and free from pollution,” Eric said. ❖



WEAR A SWIMSUIT

The Summit’s swimming pool and spa area is clean and pristine, and we ask our residents to please keep it that way. It’s okay to protect yourself from the sun by adding additional clothing such as a T-shirt when you get out of the pool, but not while you’re in it. We ask that you wear a swimsuit and a swimsuit only while in the pool. Also, please remember, no alcohol or cigarettes at poolside.

BE PREPARED FOR AN EARLY FIRE SEASON

Drought conditions and climate change have converged to make the arrival of Southern California's summer fire season early this year. "It's already upon us," said Wes Daum, Captain of Chatsworth Lake fire station number 75.

The L.A. county station is the Summit's first responder. It's charged with the responsibility of helping to protect the park and its residents in situations that range from fires and medical emergencies to snake removal. "We carry special equipment for that," explained Captain Daum.

"While no one can predict whether a blaze will move along the Santa Susana foothills, it's time to plan now for an orderly exodus from the park, especially for new residents who haven't been through the drill before," he said. Here's a checklist of items you should review with your family in the event of an evacuation:

1. Are the windows and entrance doors closed and locked?
2. Are the interior doors shut and the air conditioning turned off?
3. Are the family valuables - photos, paintings, silverware - ready to go into the car along with the pets?
4. Is the car itself gassed, facing out of the carport and ready to roll?
5. Do we have a three-day supply of prescription drugs, toiletries and clothing packed away, along with cell phones, credit cards, and insurance papers?
6. Lastly, it is important to have a contact list containing the cell phone numbers of friends and neighbors in the park, the fire captain stressed.

Keeping in touch is one of the best ways to get up to date information about the fire and about when you can return home. News reports tend to lag behind what is actually happening in a fire, and telephone lines to first responders can be busy. Nevertheless, you should try the Lost Hills Sheriff's Station for situation updates. That number is 818-878-1811.

Captain Daum grew up in the Chatsworth Lakes area, still resides here, and knows the territory like the back of his hand. The small fire station on Valley Circle Boulevard, once a private bungalow, has been operating around the clock as the community's fire station for almost 50 years. ❖



OLD SMOKEY

After guarding the Chatsworth Lake Fire Station for almost a decade, Smokey the Bear is in trouble. The base of the hand carved animal is rotting from bad drainage and he could topple over any day now. If you want to help repair the landmark statue, please call KEEP SMOKEY STANDING at 818-884-1190.

Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo.

MEETING NOTICE:

Summit management is considering making changes to the common areas of the park and would like to meet with Summit residents to share these plans.

A general meeting will be held in the clubhouse at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday evening, July 11, 2013. Along with the proposed changes to the common areas, we'd like to cover some other issues. Your attendance would be appreciated. Sincerely, Philip Miller

SUMMIT LIFE

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