Paseo Las Placitas Plan Adopted by City Council

On April 20, 1992, the San Bernardino City Council and Mayor adopted an ordinance, effective on May 25, 1992, regarding acceptance of the Paseo Las Placitas Plan, in the Mount Vernon Corridor Redevelopment District. The Plan is the culmination of a three year process which was initiated when the Mayor and Council appointed Councilpersons Jess Flores, Esther Estrada and Valerie Pope-Ludlum to act as a task force, review and submit recommendations regarding the feasibility of establishing a redevelopment district in the Mount Vernon area. The Council appointed business, community and interested persons to act as a project area committee (PAC) to further study the needs and prioritizing of future development in the district.

At that time, the City scheduled a series of orientation meetings with Westside citizens, and specifically, with property owners who would be affected in future development and to get input from the area residents. The Arroyo Group, urban planners and architects, have been the City's Development Agency project consultants and Susan Morales, Senior Project Manager, as Agency project coordinator.

The district is composed of a strip of business properties commencing at Baseline Avenue south to the southern city limits. The PAC, however, recommended an initial development of a limited area from 9th Street to 4th Street.

The Plan, in its final form, consists of Spanish and Mexican architectural design(s), with mini plazitas, courtyards and fountains, featuring restaurants, retail shops and offices where professional businesses and governmental agencies may own or lease.

Other features within the planned area are theaters, cultural and community center, park enhancement, parking areas, pedestrian walks and street-over crossways.

The proposed project term is 40 years, however, planned construction will commence within the next three years. According to state development laws, property owners have priority to develop businesses within the project. Interested persons may purchase properties from owners for business development.

The planned project is expected to generate a purchase base of $15 million by year 2000 and attract a greater tourist development.

Could this be the "Gateway to the Future" for Mt. Vernon Avenue in San Bernardino?

The freshly coined word "Freeway" was looked upon with disdain. It would change the travelers course. Time took its toll. Some attempts at revitalizing the famous street during the 1970's lasted with some measure of partial success only to see the original Fedco near the Santa Fe shops on 3rd Street move further south to Mt. Vernon and Mill Street, Fedco, as an anchor store proved, to be a magnet for other businesses.

Mt. Vernon continued its downward spiral becoming a blighted area along much of its width breadth and length. It was in 1987 when the State of California required San Bernardino to comply

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Artist's rendering of Paseo Las Placitas Plan

Could this be the "Gateway to the Future" for Mt. Vernon Avenue in San Bernardino?

Artist's rendering of proposed Fifth Street Gateway to Mt. Vernon Avenue Paseo Las Placitas in San Bernardino
Guadalupe Negrete named IEHN 1992 "Mother of the Year"

Publisher's Note: the Inland Empire Hispanic News has selected Mrs. Guadalupe Negrete as 1992 Mother of the Year.

The Negrete family clan has lived in the San Bernardino-Colton area for many decades and the majority of family members reside in the area. In addition, the clan is related through blood or marriage to numerous other families in San Bernardino and adjacent cities.

Mrs. Guadalupe (Doña Lupe, as she is known) Cervantes Negrete was born in Salavaterra, Michoacan, Mexico on November 11, 1905. Two older brothers and her were raised by her widowed mother in Ahasolo, Guanajuato, Mexico (where many of this city's early residents of Mexican descent came from, but this is another story).

She met and married her husband, Luis Arellano Negrete, in December 18, 1920. As a result of numerous revolutions occurring during that period of time in Mexico, the Negretes and other village families immigrated to the United States. Attracted by the job opportunities in San Bernardino, and more so, with railroad jobs, the families settled in the area.

Mr. Negrete worked for the Santa Fe Railroad for 39 years. During this period of time, eight boys and five girls were born in the family, however, the first two, twin brother and sister, died in infancy. Mr. Negrete was active in the community, being involved with softball, Casa Del Mexicano and Logia Progressista. He died of a heart attack in 1969. Mrs. Negrete was a housewife, and as was the tradition, stayed home to raise the children. Every one of the offspring were educated in the San Bernardino School District and are actively involved in community and civic activities.

"I had a good husband who worked very hard and we gave our children a good home and upbringing," she stated in Spanish when interviewed by telephone. "My children have been very good to me and take care of me. They visit me very often and the boys always come over on Saturday to have breakfast with me. My daughters-in-laws are also very good to me."

When asked about the current young generation, she said that today they are more liberal and not as well behaved, and they have more problems.

Mrs. Negrete currently has 35 grandchildren, 38 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren! She lives with one of her grandsons in a house in the Westside San Bernardino that was purchased in 1950.

"I do not go out as much as I used because of the way things are in the streets and also because of my illnesses, but I still have a good life."

Esther Contreras, eldest of the girls, said, "my mother has been the backbone of the family and has kept us as a very close family unit all these years. We are forever grateful to her."

Judges endorse Geo. Brown
Inland Empire Federal Court

Congressman George E. Brown (D-San Bernardino, Ontario, Riverside) announced today that an overwhelming majority of the sitting federal judges in the Central Judicial District of California have endorsed his legislation (H.R. 3795) to establish federal court in the Inland Empire. Chief Judge Manuel Real of the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles informed Brown of the crucial vote of support from which only two sitting judges dissented.

The decision by the full complement of judges in the Central Judicial District follows on the heels of a lengthy, face-to-face discussion that Brown, accompanied by local bar association and law enforcement officials, held two weeks ago with the judges in their Los Angeles chambers.

"This is a giant step toward establishing federal court in the Inland Empire itself," Brown declared. "And it will provide perhaps the single most powerful weapon against the rising tide of crime in our area."

"Under my legislation, the existing Central Judicial District will be subdivided into three divisions with one of those divisions - the Eastern Division - consisting of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

"One of my most persuasive arguments with the judges centers on the growing scourge of crime and drug trafficking in the Inland Empire," Brown stressed. "As the population of the Inland Empire continues to climb the residents of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, local law enforcement agencies, and local prosecutors are struggling valiantly to cope with more violent and drug-related crime. A federal court in our area will help to even the odds."

Brown said he will be pursuing the House Judiciary Committee to schedule hearings and a mark-up on the enabling legislation. "I am hopeful that my bill can be enacted into law before the end of this session of the Congress," Brown said.

Brown is the Chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and is a senior member of the House Agriculture Committee. He chairs the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment and is a member of the House Democratic Caucus Task Force on Crime and Drugs.
GRACIELA MORALES
Education Medal of Honor Winner

Ms. Graciela Morales, Alhambra, was one of six recipients of the County's First Education Medal of Honor Awards which was recently held in the Victor Valley area.

The event was sponsored by the San Bernardino County School Boards' Association and the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools with corporate sponsorship by Kaiser Permanente.

Ms. Morales was honored in the Excellence in Education/Student Alumnus category.

She enrolled as a re-entry student at Victor Valley Community College (VVCC) in 1976 and graduated with honors in 1978 with an A.A. degree in psychology. She continued her education at Cal State University, San Bernardino, where she earned a B.A. in psychology and an M.A. in education. Currently she is working on her Ph.D. at U.C.R.

According to Bill Greulich, director of public information at VVCC who nominated her for the award, Ms. Morales admitted that being a 35 year old female, Native American-Latina, re-entry student was challenging. However, she considers VVCC for an educational experience that was greatly influenced by caring, sensitive, and academically prepared professionals.

Conferences, workshops, and counseling in the Hispanic and Black communities are listed among Ms. Morales highest accomplishments, especially in the field of HIV-AIDS education and prevention. She has been instrumental in the development of culturally sensitive, age appropriate, and literacy level aids.

Sandoval named U.C.R. Registrar

RIVERSIDE - James W. Sandoval has been appointed registrar at the University of California, Riverside. He will continue his position as financial aid director.

Fred Zaker, vice chancellor for Enrollment Management, said Sandoval is a natural for the position because of the close ties between the registrar's and financial aid offices.

Sandoval will direct a staff of 17 in the Registrar's Office. The department is responsible for the maintenance of student records, the registration process and grades and acts as a liaison with the academic community.

Sandoval sees his new position as especially important in this time of growth.

"It's an opportunity to expand the services at UCR. As UCR grows, we need to maintain its personal approach," Sandoval said.

For the last two years, Sandoval has been involved with the student information system, which included this spring's implementation of telephone registration for students.

Since the Registrar's Office maintains all student records, Sandoval would also like to have a system to identify students at risk of dropping out. The information would be shared with academic departments to improve student retention.

Sandoval replaces Acting Registrar Evelyn Davis. Davis has resumed her post as associate registrar.

Sandoval will continue as financial aid director, overseeing a staff of 17 in the Financial Aid Department. The department administers and disburses more than $18.7 million in student financial aid, including federal and state grant programs, guaranteed student loans, and university - and private-funded scholarships.

Sandoval earned a master's degree in public administration from California State University, Fullerton in 1985 and a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in sociology from the University of San Diego in 1982.
Hispanic News has identified a young man, Martin Arteaga, who is a "recent" immigrant from Mexico and, by any standard, is a success story and role model. He has demonstrated that goals can be achieved by planning, determination, hard work and simultaneously, be able to overcome language and economic barriers.

During an interview for Inland Empire Hispanic News (IEHN), in speaking of his past, Martin Arteaga jokingly referred to his being ninth of nine brothers as having a family with a built in soccer team and with four sisters as a cheering section.

IEHN: "Tell me Martin: what part of viejo Mejico are you from and how old are you?"

Sr. Arteaga: "I came from the town of Tultepec located in the state of Michoacan, I'm 30."

IEHN: "Tell me a little about your family."

Sr. Arteaga: "My father died 23 years ago and as I told you we have a large family. The main occupation in our family was Fixture painting. I wanted to do better so I left home at age fifteen. I went to Mexico City where a friend who worked in a ceramics factory got me a job. The factory manufactured commodes, kitchen sinks and bath tubs. They worked me so hard that at times I could barely sleep at night. I did anything and everything including mapping the floors. Mexican law prohibits the use of fifteen year olds, actually my being hired was breaking the child labor law, but the boss got me in. I didn't mind because I was helping my family and younger brothers."

IEHN: "In other words you started right at the bottom, on the piso. Where did you go after your experience working in a factory?"

Sr. Arteaga: "I worked in Mexico City for five years and then decided to go back to my family. All my brothers and sisters were all married at that time. After a few months I decided to go to Puerto Vallarta where I got a job as a bookkeeper. I got the job because I went to night school to learn accounting. I did have a high school education also."

IEHN: "When did you come to the United States and what were some of the jobs you did at first?"

IEHN: "What did you do to learn English?"

Sr. Arteaga: "My wife was my teacher. Every night she would tell me to 'watch my lips' and we practiced and practiced. I was determined to learn. Learning the language gave me more self confidence and I was positive that it would help me to get better jobs. My wife was my school."

IEHN: "What then?"

Sr. Arteaga: "I finally made it to Bus Boy. It was then I really decided to learn English because I wanted to become a regular restaurant waiter. My boss said I had to speak English better, otherwise I couldn't have the job. I had to prove to him that I could. One day I asked him to test me. He sat down, grabbed a menu and began ordering. I passed!"

IEHN: "And now you are the assistant manager here at GuadalaHARRY'S. When were you promoted? Besides learning English what do you think helped you most? How about your bookkeeping?"

Sr. Arteaga: "I became assistant manager in 1989. Yes, my bookkeeping is very important in the restaurant business, dealing with suppliers and inventories. I have a total responsibility in the operation of the restaurant especially on the manager's days off. My responsibility in this job has given me the opportunity to prove one's self."

IEHN: "Other than your wife, did you receive much help from fellow Hispanics to help you up the ladder."

Sr. Arteaga: "No, no one was interested. I just decided to work hard and learn the language."

IEHN: "If no one helped you, how do you feel about helping others?"

Sr. Arteaga: "Yes, I think I would give an opportunity to anyone who wanted to work hard and succeed. I would do it even if I became a very rich man. Not too long ago, my wife and I were visiting Tiajuana. I was having a 'Torta' when a homeless child came up to me and said he was hungry. I knew he was, because I have seen this before. I gave him my 'Torta.'"

IEHN: "Are there any other things that you think might be helpful to others, in other words what's your advice?"

Sr. Arteaga: "I think being positive is important, yes, being positive is very important."

IEHN: "How are the market opportunities today?"

Sr. Arteaga: "I think being positive is important, yes, being positive is very important!"
National Crime Victims Week Observed

April 26 to May 2 was National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, an observance that throughout the past decade has become America’s annual tribute to crime victims. National Crime Victims’ Rights Week was dedicated to the memory of those who have suffered and died at the hands of their criminal assailants and to the courage of those who have suffered and survived.

Since the first observance of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week ten years ago, 400,000 Americans have lost their lives to homicide - more than the death toll of our soldiers who fought in every war in this century.

This year, as in each year over the past decade, 40,000 Americans will be victims of homicide. Killed on our streets, in our homes, at our jobs, on our highways, in our parks and schools and playgrounds...the death toll continues to climb.

What about the families and friends of those who have lost their lives to crime? Over the past decade these survivors, as well as concerned citizens and legislators on the national, state and local level, have worked hard to change the treatment of victims and survivors in the criminal justice system.

There have been many successes - a virtual revolution in crime victims’ rights. Today, in 1992, forty-eight states have passed laws that provide every basic right to crime victims such as access to the criminal justice system, the return of stolen property and the right to protection from intimidation and harm. Moreover, in the spring of 1991, the United States Supreme Court upheld the right to use victim impact statements in the sentencing phase of capital cases. Such statements are often the only opportunity for surviving family members to let the court know the financial, physical and emotional impact of the crime.

This year the families of America’s 40,000 homicide victims will have financial help from crime victim compensation programs that now exist in forty-nine states. Thousands of families will receive financial compensation from these programs to help offset the loss of income, funeral costs and psychological care for surviving family members.

These laws and programs, while significant, are small consolations to the loved ones of someone who has been killed. As a society, we continue to turn away from the hard, cold, and now everyday statistics that we are losing 40,000 Americans every year to homicide.

It is not enough to simply wake up to the number of lives lost in this country each year because of homicide. We also too often ignore those who are injured by crime and survive. Each year over two million cases of child abuse and neglect are reported in America. Over three million women are injured in crimes of domestic violence. Over one hundred thousand police reports are taken for forcible rape. Three million homes are burglarized...the list goes on and on. And behind each of these statistics is a victim afraid to return to his or her home, doing poorly in school as an abused child, unable to go to work because of the psychological consequences of being raped.

America’s victims’ rights movement has worked hard to improve the treatment of each and every victim of crime. Sixteen thousand laws which protect and restore victims’ rights have been passed over the last decade. With help from the federal, state and local governments, corporations, foundations and, even at times, revenue generated from bingo games - over 8,000 victim assistance programs have started up across the country. Services for victims range from rape crisis centers to domestic violence shelters to child abuse reporting and protecting programs. More recently, the victims’ movement is starting to reach out to many underserved victims - the elderly, victims with disabilities, non-English speaking victims, and those victimized by hate crimes and drug related violence.

In many parts of the country, crime victims are better off today than they were ten years ago.

But the critical question for America still remains. Why are we turning our backs on the violence that results in these appalling statistics? Journalist Carl Rowan once said that it is often easier to be outraged by injustice that occurs a half a world away than injustice that occurs a half a block from home. This is National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. Let us turn our attention, 400,000 victims later, to the great injustice victims suffer in this violent land we call America. Let us commit our collective resources to making crime victims rights a reality.

VICTIM WITNESS ASSISTANCE CENTERS

San Bernardino Victim/Witness Center
316 North Mt. View Avenue
San Bernardino, California 92415
(714) 387-6583

Rancho Victim/Witness Center
803 Haven Avenue
Rancho Cucamonga, California 91730
(714) 945-4241

Victorville Victim/Witness Center
14455 Civic Drive
Victorville, California 92392
(619) 243-8620

Barstow Victim/Witness Center
235 East Mt. View
Barstow, California 92311
(619) 256-4807

Although the centers are only located in the above areas, the program serves victims throughout the County of San Bernardino. All crime victims are entitled to services of different degrees...from case information to reimbursement of out of pocket losses. To find out what is available call any of the centers listed.
Soccer Registration Underway for Fall Season

Region 130 AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) is taking registrations for Fall Soccer which is open to all youth 5 - 18 years of age.

Signups will be on Saturday, May 16, 10am-2pm at AYSO PARC located behind San Andreas High School on Pacific Avenue. In order to participate, youth must be at least five years of age by December 31, 1992. Please bring your child’s birth certificate and $35 for registration. The registration fee covers insurance, a uniform, and upkeep for the fields.

STOP Program Gives a Good Start to Mary Ann

Mary Ann is 29 years old, single, and raising six of her seven children ages one through 12 years. She is a resident of San Bernardino County. In November, 1990, Mary Ann was referred to the STOP program by a social worker. She had a history of amphetamine use prior to the birth of her last child.

The STOP program, operated by the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, stands for Services Targeted on Prevention. It provides voluntary home-based services to families in which children are at high risk for abuse or neglect. The goal of the program is to prevent child abuse and neglect and keep families together.

Joan Williams, a public health nurse in the STOP program, was assigned to help Mary Ann and her children. Ms. Williams made a home visit and did an assessment on Mary Ann’s infant which included a physical examination and measurement of height, weight, and head circumference.

“My initial contact made me aware that Mary Ann and her children had many needs that could be addressed by our program,” stated Ms. Williams. Beyond financial assistance, Mary Ann needed emotional support for herself and general assistance in recognizing potential health problems of her children, obtaining adequate medical care, developing parenting skills, and acquiring permanent housing and essential transportation.

Each child’s growth and development has been monitored on a continuous basis. Mary Ann’s second daughter, age 10, has been signed-up in an Individual Education Plan, a special study program to improve her learning ability. The child has had many reading difficulties since being placed in an appropriate program.

Mary Ann comments, “I have learned to make priorities to help me make the best use of my money. I am also disciplining my kids better,” she sighs. “I’m teaching them to clean up their own messes.” Mary Ann states that Ms. Williams also taught her how to use the bus system to go grocery shopping and get to her medical appointments.

Mary Ann’s story is just one of many examples of how the Health Department is serving the community. The STOP program helps families who are referred through the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS).

For more information about the program, call (714) 387-6213.

The City of Rialto

The City of Rialto has a job opening for Finance Director

If you would like more information about this position or other job opportunities with the City, call the Personnel Department at:

(714) 820-2540

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DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING

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The Public Works Group is recruiting for a Director of Architecture and Engineering to administer the County's Capital Improvement Program. Requires five years of experience in the management and supervision of architectural or civil engineering projects from planning through design, contract administration and construction. Registration as a Civil Engineer or Architect in the State of California is also required. Apply by May 29, 1992.

San Bernardino County Human Resources
157 West Fifth Street
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0440
(714) 387-6086 or 387-8304
EOE m/f/h

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

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The Sheriff's Department Group conducts group testing quarterly. At that time applications are taken. The next test is to be announced. For more information contact the Job Hotline of the County's Resources Department at (714) 387-5611.

For more information, contact:
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Dept.
(714) 387-3750
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MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC SUPERVISOR
Up to $4,519 approx. monthly
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San Bernardino County Dept. of Mental Health is recruiting for Mental Health Clinic Supervisors who will supervise a staff of clinical therapists and support personnel in directing the daily operation of a treatment facility. Supervisory experience is highly desirable but not required. Qualified candidates must apply before May 15, 1992.

San Bernardino County Human Resources
157 West Fifth Street
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0440
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Inland Empire Hispanic News Classified Advertising
with a general plan. State law requires a general plan be submitted and updated every few years. With the States mandate, a glimmer of hope for recovery began.

Achievement and progress are woefully slow. The political process seems much like the hundreds of stoplights along the route to your final destination. Literally a stop and go process.

According to a redevelopment report, it was almost two years later when the "green-light" was given by the City's Mayor and council who appointed a Task Force in August of 1989. Council persons Estrada, Flores and Pope-Ludlam were asked to serve on the Mt. Vernon Task Force and to make recommendations to explore the potential of the Mt. Vernon business Corridor Redevelopment Project. A project that was first envisioned by Redevelopment Director Glenda Saul in 1985.

In another report dated June 13, 1990, the Redevelopment Agency chronologically listed approximately twenty-one different meetings, council actions, and environmental reviews! The bureaucracy outlined twenty-four similar stop and go's from January 3, to June 11 of 1990! The stop - rest - go on the road to revitalization of Mt. Vernon Avenue has and continues to be a bumpy zig-zag ride.

The Public Hearing Draft prepared by the Arroyo Group, Planners, Architects & Associated Disciplines was finalized on February 25, 1992. The document is for the Mt. Vernon Corridor specific plan and environmental impact review. To the uninitiated, the creation of such a plan involves infinite planning.

Details that most of us cannot conceive of.

The design guidelines for the Paseo Las Placitas are the foundation for the project from the unseen to the visual, such as underground utilities, to the near term preparation of upgrading of 5th Street as an entry corridor to the Paseo. The complexity of the Design Guideline must take in every conceivable consideration that comprises how we shall participate in such a revitalized, and renewed physical atmosphere of community spirit. Not unlike the old pair of shoes. Once worn for a while they become comfortable and no other pair feels as good, until one day you realize they have a hole on the sole, or should we say hole in its soul. A new pair is needed, they cannot be repaired anymore. Mt. Vernon needs her new pair of shoes to promenade proudly along the Paseo.

Details for such a project encompass all those salient features of design and style, parking lots, Cinemas, Mercados, private environment, lot sizes, facades, noise abatement and enclosed trash bins. Enhancements include a restaurant already being planned for at 5th and Mt. Vernon. According to a spokesperson for the Development Department of the City, other fill-in projects are already in progress. In the near term the basics of street upgrading with landscaping and lighting will begin. For the future, a commuter rail stop is planned for the Santa Fe Station. A shuttle from the Paseo to downtown will provide workers and visitors a quick access in either direction.

The Mt. Vernon corridor project begins with a Public-Private Partnership, a community joint venture for the future of the Paseo Las Placitas.

The Specific Plan states: "The Paseo Las Placitas is designed to be a work of art itself - as urban design and architecture, a spatial and cultural event. The streetscapes, plazas and parks are also intended to be a setting for artist-designed fountains, murals and street furniture."

Wide sidewalk promenades will attract street fairs. Vendedores, with perhaps Marachi's strumming visitors in a cool court yard. The atmosphere is designed to attract and to have people return again and again. The task before the community leaders, the City Council and Councilwoman Esther Estrada and the redevelopment staff, still presents many hurdles to jump over.

George Aguilar of Colton who owns property in the Mt. Vernon corridor had this to say about the Paseo Las Placitas, "Investment capital is scarce, and the City of San Bernardino holds the key in attracting investors, if good faith were displayed by the City's investment of putting in the necessary parking lots first." Investment in infrastructure is the magnet. He added that it would be wise to concentrate on attracting local business people who are already established and know their city. Aguilar cited the immediate need for freeway off ramps leading to the area.

Mr. Irene Monzon, co-owner of the famous Mitla's Restaurant was positive when interviewed. She feels the project would be exciting and that a newMitla's was a distinct possibility should the project reach the beginning construction. Mrs. Montano reached the same conclusion that the prime mover must be the city's investment in parking as the basic step. She voiced concern that each entrepreneur would have to arrange for their own contractor and thus creating the potential for straying from the concept.

Our memories still ring with the sound of children's laughter and "Are we there yet?"