



PCPOA

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# PCPOA News

## President's Message

Ben Curtis

The initial the concept of the Power Posse was to organize our neighbors that have various types of motorized vehicles, and have a Placerita Canyon entry for the 4th of July Parade in Newhall. We had a lot of fun doing that, we all met some new neighbors, and lots of kids enjoyed the outing. But.....

Our Canyon seems is under constant attack from no less that our own City Planning Department, along with their select group of developers. Our community is comprised of an especially tenacious and 'head strong' bunch of people. We enjoy a comfortable and bucolic way of life in our canyon, and there is no doubt that we will all fight to maintain what we have here. Maybe that is the real "Power" of Placerita Canyon... The people that live here DO have power and are well known as a group that doesn't take being pushed around by City Hall or County Offices lightly. It has been suggested that the activism needed to maintain our visibility at planning meetings, and City Council Meetings could well come under the banner of "Placerita Power Posse".

Your PCPOA Board works tirelessly to stay vigilant with respect the planning and other agency's attempts to 'change' our lifestyle, and ruin our Canyon. Many times, the board needs involvement of the rest of the community to make a showing in various meetings so that the City and County can actually SEE and HEAR us... Put many faces with the name if you will. In short, the Placerita Power Posse can still enjoy the fun of organizing for the Fourth Of July, but we would love to have participation from everyone in the Canyon to help us show there is more than one type of "POWER" in Placerita Canyon.

The PPP will meet whenever necessary to discuss actions that are contemplated that affect Placerita Canyon. Please provide your input to this suggestion by contacting one or more of the Board members, whose names you will find on the last page of the newsletter or online at [www.pcpoa.com](http://www.pcpoa.com).

## PLACERITA GOLD

Linda Tarnoff

### SPRING 2008 - Bob Jones

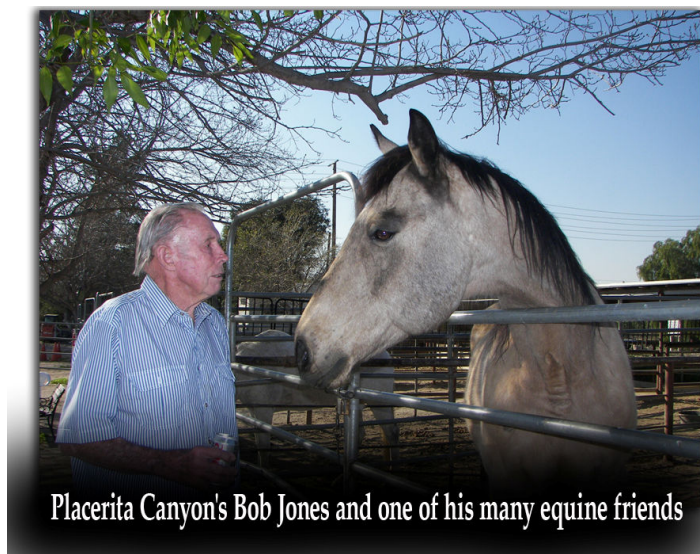
At a roping event, a young fella walked up and wanted to know if anyone could get into the jackpot event. It was noticed he was wearing a certain style of boots that announced that this particular fella could be beat. However when this fella galloped out of the chute, he was viewed upon as absolutely the fastest roper ever seen. Then there's the story about his competition who thought "he was pretty hot as a roper" until he met this particular fella who made him re-think his life as a roper.

Located just beyond the back gate, tucked against the AES cogeneration plant, is a humble horse boarding stable owned by Bob Jones. Involvement with horses has always been his life, whether it be in a horse drawn buggy as a young boy, as a successful roper, hauling horses for a living, or operating his beloved boarding stable. Bob's life is a fascinating journey, traversing eight decades, which ultimately led him to move to Placerita Canyon, basking in its serenity, a sharp

contrast from his earlier years and life experiences. Saddle up with us as we meander down memory lane.

One of four siblings, Bob got his start in life in Burley Idaho, born to Kenneth Edward Jones, a chef at the Idaho Hotel, and his mother Josephine. His grandfather had a ranch where he occasional rode in a buggy or on a horse. At the age of 12, his family moved to Burbank, California, where his father continued in the restaurant business until the war when he did security at a defense plant. Bob went to Burbank schools, Emerson Elementary, John Muir Junior High, and Burbank High.

In 1944, at the age of 18, Bob joined the Navy where he served for two years. He then began to think about a career with horses, because while he attended John Muir Jr. High



Placerita Canyon's Bob Jones and one of his many equine friends

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# What's Up With The Dump?

Chris Townsley

Our State and Federal governments require recycling of our trash/waste, which has obligated the City of Santa Clarita to develop programs to accomplish this both for residential and commercial properties. Our City government, along with Burrtec/Waste Management, has for several years now been looking to find a site for a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), as part of the franchise agreement given to Burrtec/Waste Management to monopolize all trash and recycling service within the City. Sites they have looked at include: Gate-King (Sierra Highway south of San Fernando Road – stalled due to ongoing litigation), near Keysor-Century across from Saugus Cafe (rejected because the PUC would not allow heavier volumes of truck traffic across that at grade railroad crossing); and Golden Valley – Placerita Canyon Road (along Sierra Highway). While there is no requirement that Burrtec/Waste Management locate such a facility within the City limits, nevertheless City staff and the City Manager (as well as other City Department heads) have inexplicably tried to have this project placed within the City limits, including in a Residential Low zoned area of Newhall such as the current site proposed of Golden Valley – Placerita Canyon Road.

This proposed MRF project is gigantically huge: Encompassing over 75 acres along Sierra Highway with access from the Antelope Valley Freeway (14) at two points; would have a MRF/Waste Transfer building of over 80,000 square feet plus additional support structures (i.e. administrative, parking, weigh scales, and 6,000 square foot truck maintenance/repair facility); and it would literally be handling waste/trash/recycling operations for nearly 24 hours a day, six days a week. It would accept such material not only from within the City of Santa Clarita, but other unspecified areas outside the city limits. The volume of waste/trash/recycling would be massive, namely up to 3,000 tons per day both coming in, being dumped, processed and transferred

out on trucks once processing has been completed. It has been estimated that such would involve nearly 872 large commercial trucks traveling in and out of this facility during these weekly hours of operation. In truth it is a “dump” because all trash/waste will at some point be housed there, even if not permanently (such as occurs with a solid waste landfill). It is also a case where what the City proposes is to have a large non-conforming use move into a peaceful, rural residential area, not unlike having an airport move in next door to one’s existing neighborhood.

Many neighbors from numerous communities throughout Santa Clarita, but mainly Newhall, have joined together to voice their objections to any consideration of this project at this location for a variety of reasons. Concerns expressed have included: Commercial truck traffic; hours of operation; road damage; air quality; excessive noise; health hazards; odors; vermin; uncompensated devaluation of homes; safety of seniors and minors; etc. Over the past couple of months many of your Newhall neighbors have vigorously objected in written comments, called and even voiced their concerns in person to the City Council (even though the City Council had only approved hiring a consultant to start the Environmental Impact Review process and has never agendized this issue for a more formal hearing). It appears that some within the City government have now heard these concerns and decided on a new tact to take. As of the March 25<sup>th</sup> 2008 City Council meeting, City Manager Ken Pulskamp acknowledged that in response to neighborhood concerns, that Burrtec/Waste Management had temporarily halted its plans for this Newhall location. It now may have formally agreed to withdraw all plans for this site, as such was announced April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 by Mayor Bob Kellar following a meeting with Burrtec/Waste Management’s President Cole Burr. Burr is also reported to have agreed to meet with the community to discuss any

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School, he had fond memories of experiences at the Lazy 3, a riding academy in nearby Glendale. In 1946, he went back to the Lazy 3, which he eventually purchased. While under his ownership, the Lazy 3 was a hangout for Hollywood cowboys, the likes of Jay Fishburn (jockey), Robert Fuller and Chuck Courtney who played Danny Reed in the Lone Ranger. Bob recalls when Chuck ran up and vaulted onto the back of a horse his (Bob's) wife was riding and how he got bucked off. "Those Hollywood stuntmen!", he says.

## ROLLING ROLLING ROLLING

After selling the Lazy 3 in 1949, in the 1950's, Bob met someone who had a successful horse trailering business. Bob purchased the horse trailer and business, which became known as Bob Jones Horse Transportation, thereby enabling him to remain hands on with horses.

His wife, Clara Bailey, whom he married in 1949 after meeting her on a trail ride in Griffith Park, became his sidekick in the "very successful" horse trailering venture, "keeping him awake".

They drove all around California transporting horses, including "Determined", a Kentucky Derby winner. The large Bob Jones Horse Transportation rigs had quite a presence on the open road because there were three such rigs, always on the move. However, they did stop long enough to have a son in 1960, Robert D. Jones who is in the computer business in Nevada. He is also very proud of his 19 nieces and nephews, of which seven are grand nieces or nephews.

Eventually, Bob got at the "political" end of the horse business, serving on a committee for AB 917 regarding the use of illegal drugs, shielding horses from civil and inhumane practices while in the show ring as well as protecting buyers in the marketplace. After the passage of AB 917, he was appointed to the Horse Drugging Advisory Committee by the California Department of Agriculture in 1972, serving for eight years.

Also, interestingly, he served as co-founder of the Los Angeles Horse Show Exhibitors Association, serving a total of ten years as President, eventually succeeded by Larry Langer. He also was a licensed American horse show judge and steward.

## PLANTING ROOTS IN PLACERITA

How he chanced upon Placerita was totally by need. He had a very successful breeding stallion, "Straw Again", who had many mares coming in for breeding, necessitating the identification of a facility larger than his then Northridge place. A friend told him about the availability of a property in Placerita Canyon which Bob purchased in 1978.

Bob immediately thought about great plans for this very run-down place such as the construction of a first class covered arena. However, a serious look at the cost made him realize that a major property cleanup and use of a couple of barns and pipe corrals instead "would be a better way to go". Therefore he decided to just have a small operation instead, which is now it has remained for 30 years.

Bob Jones Stables is currently home to 16 horses in a very comfortable setting. His facility has quite a personality filled with historical memorabilia such as Route 66 and other signs, rusty old farm equipment and tools, etc.. In fact, one of his tack rooms is actually an old water tank painted with Indian artwork.

His facility is certified by the Los Angeles County Fire Dept. as a safe place to accommodate livestock during a disaster, as is Atlasta Ranch on the west end.

## HIS CLOSEST NEIGHBORS

Upon visiting Bob's stable, I was amazed as to how well the horses are sheltered directly in the shadows of the AES cogeneration facility. A true believer in private property rights, he was initially very concerned about the impact of the cogeneration plant on his stable. AES showed him the drawings and said that horses would be welcome next door. He remembers when AES first came aboard, they put in a lot of trees to beautify the area which had previously been littered with mounds of trash. A massive property cleanup ensued, the plant was built, and to this day, they have a great relationship, watching out for each other.

Above and behind his stable on the hillsides and beyond is Berry Petroleum which operates the oil rigs. He is watching with great curiosity what may be happening on the still vacant property adjacent to the DWP power lines which also had been home to oil wells.

## PERSONAL MEMOIRS

Visiting Bob's home and office is a journey back in time with the many photos on display depicting his childhood, his acting experiences, his horse show jumping, as well as him with many different people including celebrities he worked with, even a foto with former County Supervisor Warren Dorn. Also featured is a 1979 photo of his champion stallion, Straw Again, next to a flyer of his also champion son, Sugar Shorts Cake, which had been owned by long time Golden Oak Road residents Dave and Debbie Dennis.

"What a special guy, really an ultimate horseperson and horse trainer to the point where most people don't know how much Bob knows about equestrian training, in the league of legendary Clyde Kennedy and Corky and Glenn Randall", says Dave, "he's

a great friend to Debbie and I. He truly deserves this tremendous honor".

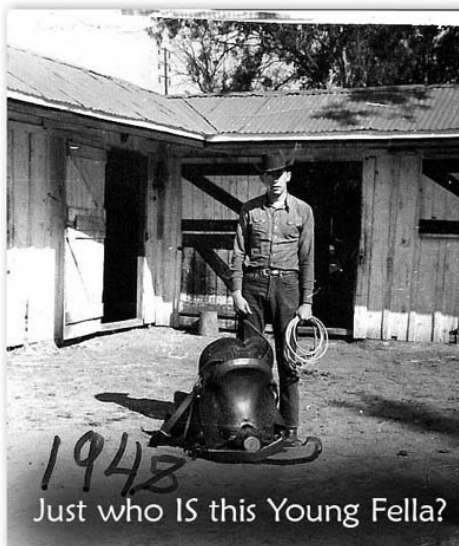
## REFLECTIONS

Bob thinks Placerita Canyon is beautiful with gorgeous homes. "A Person has to feel honored to live here", he says with conviction.

As far as change goes, it was pretty when he moved in and it is still pretty now.

As a member of Placerita Canyon Road's Gate Committee, he remembers when the gate had first been closed and how challenging it was, to say the least. Before the gate had been closed, the traffic was horrible and dangerous with thousands of cars a day and heavy

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**Bob Jones** (Continued from page 3)



40 foot trucks as well, all using this meandering road as a shortcut. He adds that after the gate was first put in, how quiet everything became, which it has remained to this day.

He loves the Cowboy Walk of Fame, and hopes Newhall is successful in its redevelopment to highlight the Walk of Fame. Bob was very sorry to see Newhall Hardware close as he stopped in there quite often. Their motto was "if we don't got it, you don't need it".

They always had what Bob needed.

### OUR PLACERITA GOLD

Bob Jones is a caring, generous, and nice man of simple values. His memoirs display a life that has been very rewarding and always revolving around simple things and horses whether it be horse jumping six feet, transporting horses or running his beloved boarding stable, always doing something good for horses and the horse industry. He truly loves the canyon, and has a true passion for horses, maintaining trails, his friends and neighbors, and living a good life. If Bob had to do it all over again, he would do it all the same.

"I've always admired Bob as a good reputable person and a great horseman", says Spring 2007 Placerita Gold honoree Lola Williams who has "never heard a bad word about him, only good things".

Nuff said, here's to you, Bob Jones for being our Spring 2008 Placerita Gold honoree. Thank you for being such a good neighbor and for having such a positive impact on many of our lives, even if we didn't know you then.

Oh by the way, the young fella at the beginning of this article who showed Bob how fast a roper could really rope was none other than our own Phil Rawlins, Winter 2007 Placerita Gold recipient.

### PRAYER ANGELS FOR MILITARY

Did you know that real angels are living here in Placerita Canyon? The canyon's own Suzon Gerstel, assisted by her husband Dale, family members and other community guardian angels from Santa Clarita, is the co-founder and president of Prayer Angels for the Military (PAM), a dedicated 501(c)3 organization supporting our Troops with prayers and mail from home. Staffed by volunteers and funded by private tax deductible donations, PAM reaches out to as many deployed service members as possible, trying to make sure that no one is forgotten at mail call, whether it be sending a care package or a support letter or card.

PAM originally started out as a handful of women, such as Suzon, supporting their children and/or husbands in the first deployment to Iraq in 2003. Almost immediately, names of other Marines and soldiers were presented to them who also needed prayers and support. After that, the list of soldiers grew as did the supporters, which led to the organization's official founding on July 14, 2004.

In addition to currently supporting over 2000 troops, donations are also sent to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in D.C. and other military hospitals. This is a year round community effort and monetary donations are always needed for postage. They truly appreciate their Placerita Canyon supporters such as the Veluzats of Melody Ranch. For further information, Suzon can be reached at (661) 799-8865, or [www.prayerangelsforthemilitary.com](http://www.prayerangelsforthemilitary.com).

PCPOA proudly salutes and supports Suzon Gerstel and Prayer Angels for the Military for having such a positive impact on the morale of our brave men and women who are risking their lives to protect ours, making us all proud.



Dear Residents:

During my career as a rodeo contestant, I have traveled most of the U.S.A. And, as a motion picture studio employee and retiree, I have traveled most of the world. But, I always come back to Placerita Canyon. Fran, my wife, and I feel it is the most wonderful place of all to live.

With warmest regards,

Phil Rawlins

Placerita Canyon Resident since 1969

## LOCAL RESIDENT TO RIDE NCAA DIV. 1

Taylor Hall, a Placerita Canyon resident for 5 years has attracted the attention of Fresno State University's equestrian team. Taylor will be riding for the Bulldogs, a Division 1 athletic team and will compete nationally as a Hunter/Equestrian. Fresno State participates in the NCAA Varsity Equestrian League that currently has 25 participating schools including Texas A&M, Kansas State, and Auburn. Fresno is the only university west of Kansas that fields a team.

In 1998, equestrian was classified as an NCAA emerging sport. Many people within the horse industry have united together to help advance the sport to full NCAA championship status. In order to attain this goal and hold a NCAA Equestrian Championship, there are nearly 40 Division I/II schools that sponsor equestrian as a varsity level program.

Taylor Hall has been riding since she was 8 and for the first six years stabled and trained at Atlasta. Currently her horse, Duncan, is at Camelot where she trains with Carolyn Culligan. Taylor has competed throughout Southern California and currently rides on Hart's IEL Varsity team. Taylor, will join a team of 43 women in August and will travel approximately 10 times in 2008-2009 competing with other schools. Fresno State is entering the NCAA Championships this year ranked 10<sup>th</sup>.



MELODY RANCH  
SPRING 2008

As this is April, Melody Ranch is busy dusting off the wooden sidewalks and putting out its welcome mat for the annual Santa Clarita Cowboy Poetry Festival to be held April 23-27. Hope y'all take time to enjoy its many festivities, poetry readings, and entertainment such as Don Edwards, Hot Club of Cowtown, Sons of the San Joaquin, Waddie Mitchell as well as Santa Clarita's own talented Messick Family. For further information, check out [www.santa-clarita.com](http://www.santa-clarita.com), for event information.

The lingering effects of the Writer's Strike and as well as the upcoming Screen Actors Guild contract negotiations have put a temporary damper on filming activities at Melody Ranch. Will have more to report in our next newsletter.

In the meantime, Happy Trails Until We Meet Again

# Trails Council

Linda Tarnoff



Over 20 trails advocates attended the Placerita Canyon Trails Council meeting on February 28 at the colorful Rattle-

snake Slims coffee tea and tack bar in downtown Newhall. Our special guest was Tom Reilly on behalf of the City Parks & Recreation Dept., who participated with members in a most informative interactive discussion.

Items discussed included the efforts of the Santa Clarita Valley Trails Advisory Committee (SCVTAC), how the goal is for City trails to intersect the County trails, the use of the trail system for non motorized use only, trail etiquette (bicycles yield to hikers and all yield to horses), as well as our commitment to future trail use of Whittaker Bermite.

PCPOA Board member Gene Leary made a presentation on the status of the canyon easements and his involvement to date in being sure that all of our remaining easements are accessible and clear of obstacles, as originally intended, which we will continue to be due diligent on. Linda Tarnoff advised attendees of her ongoing discussions with Master's College representatives on the future equestrian tunnel under the Dockweiler Road extension and how



assurances were provided that the inside height will be 12 feet to accommodate horses and riders.

Future items at our next meeting in June will include discussion on the streambeds and blocking of streambeds, any disclosure

of trails in the creek; Section 846, the State Recreational Use Law; further consideration of our revised priorities based upon input received. In addition to Tom Reilly who will serve as our Trails Liaison, invited to our next meeting will be the Sheriff's deputies responsible for off road traffic enforcement.

In addition to Gene Leary and Linda Tarnoff, PCPOA Board members and canyon residents attending were Sandra Cattell, Phil Rawlins, Scott Dickens, Olga Kazemar, Laura and Cassie Wambsgans, Christian and Melany Bouyer; Willow Daniels representing Eclipse Farms at Atlasta Ranch, Sherrie Stolarik of SCVTAC, Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel of the Community Hiking Club and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Tina Hargett of Rockin M Ranch, Elizabeth Humphries, Adrian & Beverly Saldana, Brad Packer, Nancy Waterman, Gordon Mehterian, proprietor of Rattlesnake Slims, and a few others who didn't sign in. Thanks to all who attended and provided input.



Kudoes to Patty Pierce for A) her Signal front page photo and article on Carriage Driving in the canyon, and B) her prompt contacting of City Council reps Laurene Weste and Marsha McLean in response to MWD's erection of chain link and barb wire fence on the perimeter of its property, which jeopardized access to the South Fork Trail. Patty advises that Councilwoman Weste was instrumental in obtaining a cease and desist on further work until the trail easement is resolved. The Trails Council will continue to work with Patty in monitoring this situation. Unfortunately the reasons for the additional fencing are ongoing dumping, breaking of existing fence to gain access, alleged trespassing and camping of homeless people, all which in MWD's mind calls for additional action. Unfortunately, unless certain segments of our society start to care about their environment, our environment, then our bucolic canyon will continue to pay the price. Think about it.

**Till our next meeting, Happy Trails everyone.**



## LAS LOMAS STOPPED !

### SANDRA CATTELL

The Placerita Canyon Property Owners Association, along with many other local interest groups, has long opposed the Las Lomas project because of overwhelming impacts it would have on our community. The huge development was proposed to be built in a Significant Ecological Area that includes the major wildlife corridor between the Santa Susanna and San Gabriel Mountains, and in the path of the Rim of the Valley Corridor. The area includes a Seismic Hazard Zone, with a landslide overlay and a Fire Hazard Zone (in an area almost inaccessible in case of emergency). It would have severely exacerbated the already near-gridlock conditions of Newhall Pass.

Located in unincorporated L.A. County, the project owners had discussed annexation with Santa Clarita, but were turned down for all of the reasons stated above. In Addition the project density exceeded the general plan designations by a mere 2000%!

The developer then turned to the City of L.A. for annexation (most likely for access to its utilities).

On March 19, 2008, the Los Angeles City Council voted 10-5 to stop work on Las Lomas. Numerous opponents to the project (including members of the PCPOA Board) attended the city council meeting. The motion by Council Member Greig Smith directed the L.A. Planning

Dept. to stop processing the annexation of Las Lomas, and to return all studies and paperwork to developer Dan Palmer's Company. Votes for Greig Smith's motion included Council Members Tony Cardenas, Eric Garcetti, Wendy Greuel, Janice Hahn, Tom LaBonge, Jan Perry, Bill Rosendahl, Greig Smith, Jack Weiss, and Dennis Zine. Votes against the motion came from Richard Alarcon, Jose Huizar, Bernard Parks, Ed Reyes, and Herb Wesson.

We believe Councilman Smith's motion indeed reflected our concerns, and we are grateful the City Council took the bold move to stop this project. In the words of Greig Smith:

*"The Las Lomas project was too big, too dense, and couldn't be planned in a worse place. It would have a devastating effect on traffic, the environment and would unacceptably strain our water, infrastructure and public safety resources. The huge coalition of opponents to Las Lomas who came together to say no to this project have our gratitude and praise..."*

**Don't forget to attend the PCPOA Annual Meeting and BBQ  
Master's College, May 17; 9:30 until Noon. Information, Food, and a great  
time to meet your Board and your Neighbors. Election of Board Members!**

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potential sites prior to applying for permits. One wonders why City staff didn't have them do this before proposing the Golden Valley – Placerita Canyon MRF project too?

If this project site has truly been permanently defeated, it is not because our City staff and elected officials exercised good planning and wisdom in their

initial meetings with the developer, Burrtec/Waste Management. It was only because neighbors in a variety of Newhall neighborhoods all stood together, organized, and voiced their objections (both in writing and verbally) before the Burrtec/Waste Management/City's train could get too much further down the tracks on this very poor concept. If you would like further information concerning this project please e-mail [Stop.the.Dump4@gmail.com](mailto:Stop.the.Dump4@gmail.com).

**Placerita Canyon Property Owner's Association**

**Post Office Box 222204**

**Santa Clarita, California 91322**

**<http://www.pcpoa.com>**

***The PCPOA is formed under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code as a Public Benefit Corporation that is exempt from Taxation.***

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*Special Thanks to Olga Kaczmar for her beautiful photography used on page headers for pages 5 & 7*

**Annual Meeting and BBQ**  
**May 17, 9:30am At Master's College**  
**Election of Board Members!**

Placerita Canyon Property Owners' Association  
Post Office Box 222204  
Newhall, CA. 91322

Or Current Resident

*Working To Preserve and Enhance Life In Placerita Canyon*