

Welcome to Fountain Valley: an accessible city

The following is an excerpt from a letter the city received from the National Organization on Disability:

“We want to recognize and commend Fountain Valley’s efforts on behalf of people with disabilities, as demonstrated by your impressive entry being named as a finalist in the Accessible America 2003 competition...”

We are pleased to enclose a certificate acknowledging Fountain Valley’s laudable commitment to the participation of people with disabilities in community life.”

Susan Lynn, our city clerk and Jeannie Heimberger, our staff liaison to the Advisory Committee for the Disabled, along with Don Heinbuch, our administrative services manager, compiled a list of objectives that Fountain Valley has accomplished to help our residents who have disabilities ... I was impressed and so was the National Organization on Disability.

► The City Council established the Advisory Committee for the Disabled more than 25 years ago to advise the City Council on accessibility and other issues of impact to persons with disabilities at public/private venues (e.g. grocery stores).

► Fountain Valley was one of California’s first cities to incorporate a handicap ramp program into its building and development processes.

► The city always taps the services of at least one person with a disability(ies) in the General Plan Citizen Advisory Group to address access and other issues.

► Fountain Valley consistently provides funding to the California Elwyn Institute, which not only employs many persons with disabilities but also provides job training.

► Each of the city’s 17 parks has picnic tables that are three-inches taller than traditional picnic tables (so wheelchair arms can fit under the tables enabling picnickers to sit closer to the tables). The attached benches are shorter in length to enable wheelchair users at the end of the tables to pivot their chairs around without knocking their knees on



Guy Carrozzo
MAYOR'S VIEW

full-length benches.

► Maryland Public Television produced a program, aired nationwide, that was designed to inform communities about innovative recycling strategies, featuring, among other examples, Fountain Valley’s picnic tables specially designed to accommodate wheelchair users.

► When the new library was proposed, the Advisory Committee for the Disabled reviewed the plans and prepared a suggestion list that provided Orange County with its first public library offering easy accessibility for persons with disabilities.

► The city counts on persons with disabilities to help enrich its Disaster Preparedness plans, noting where people with disabilities reside and identifying their special evacuation needs.

► The city provides home improvement programs for persons with disabilities. Referrals are also given to local volunteers who assist persons with disabilities in home maintenance projects (i.e. painting, weeding, etc.).

► Fountain Valley designated handicapped parking spaces prior to it becoming law and Fountain Valley’s model became the proto-type for California law.

► Many cities have copied Fountain Valley’s digital countdown signals so hearing impaired individuals (who may not be aware of a car’s horn) can see, via the countdown signals, how much longer they have to cross the intersections. The Sacramento Bee (500 miles from Fountain Valley) publicized Fountain Valley’s countdown signals statewide when a March 16, 2002, article said, “Fountain Valley’s count-down signals have been a hit ... because pe-

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YourViews

Praise for city’s cyber cafe rules

Once again, I would like to commend the City Council for taking a strong proactive stance on the issue of cyber cafes.

While our neighboring cities struggle to deal with the inherent crime activity, noise, and loitering issues that can result from these businesses, Fountain Valley will continue to escape this annoyance, largely due to the foresight of our leaders.

The urgency ordinance passed March 9 by the City Council sends a clear message: The citizens of Fountain Valley do not want to risk their personal safety and right to quiet enjoyment caused by unregulated businesses.

Fountain Valley truly is a "Nice Place to Live." Lets all work to keep it that way.

—Brad Gaston

NEWS BACKGROUND: The following letters are about McDonald’s and Panda Express’ desire to build restaurants at the corner of Brookhurst Street and Niagara River Avenue. The empty lot is zoned for commercial and is used seasonally for strawberry, pumpkin and Christmas-tree sales.

At this time, McDonald’s has held two neighborhood meetings with Devonwood Estates homeowners. The Devonwood tract backs up to the empty land. The restaurants have not yet sent in an application to the city to build on the lot. If they do apply, after their building plans are submitted to the city’s Planning Department, then traffic would be studied and environmental impact reports would be compiled. —ed.

‘A Nice Place to Live’ or ‘A Greedy Place to Habitat’

I am writing as a concerned

The Mailbox



citizen of Fountain Valley regarding the potential proposal of relocating McDonald’s to the corner of Brookhurst and Niagara River. This is based on a recent meeting where McDonald’s and Panda Express had their second presentation NOT addressing Devonwood Estates’ list of concerns of immense traffic inflow onto the neighborhood streets, increase in noise, unwanted litter and waterway pollution.

I appreciate these companies trying to increase revenues for profit. I also understand that Fountain Valley reaps the benefits based on tax implications. The question is at what cost?

What alarms me most is these companies’ lack of initial analysis of traffic patterns and overall concern about the safety of a neighborhood. It was blatantly apparent that these companies were not aware of the inadequate access for northbound traffic due to the limitations of the

Brookhurst Street median. Due to the median, Niagara River Avenue, a residential street, becomes the only access to northbound Brookhurst traffic. Additionally, Niagara becomes the exit where traffic will be directed towards Devonwood Estates’ Mt. Cimarron Street. This will be the situation because it will be easier to cut through the housing track rather than proceed south on Brookhurst, stop at the light to turn right on Garfield Avenue.

Here lies the safety concern. Children use Niagara River and Mt. Cimarron to go to Moiola school, to bike, ride scooters and play in the street.

Consider this scenario: After exiting the drive-through at one of the restaurants the person opts to use these neighborhood streets to gain access to Garfield. As the car exits onto Niagara, the car cuts the corner short on Mt. Cimarron.

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The Fountain Valley View



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LETTERS

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As the car accelerates, a child is crossing Mt. Cimarron to go to school (in the past, the child considered this route safe). The car strikes the child. Now imagine that this is your child. I do. By this scenario alone, this now likely scenario makes this proposal an act of greed and not profit.

I truly believe that Fountain Valley is "A Nice Place to Live". Let's not make this "A Greedy Place to Habitat". I am sure you would not like to have this situation in your neighborhood.

-Eric Verstraete

We are owners of a home in the Devonwood Estates.

The desire of McDonald's and Panda Express to occupy the corner of Niagara River Avenue and Brookhurst Street is of significant interest to our family as we are already effected by the proximity of commercial businesses, and recognize how strongly it will effect the entire neighborhood.

Presently, we hear the comings and goings of gardeners and parking lot cleaners, gar-

bage collectors and occasional groups of people standing outside their cars visiting. I have called the police after witnessing two young men jump over my neighbor's wall being protected from view by a service delivery truck, and we have had to call the police for a transient that parks in the lot to sleep and runs his generator all night.

The four homes that would be backing the McDonald's and Panda would experience far worse as the clientele would be far younger. The noise, smells and pollution would be enough to make their homes depreciate greatly.

McDonald's owner-operator Bob Nibeel at the first neighborhood meeting estimated that 1,000 to 1,500 vehicles per day would visit McDonald's. He said that it was fair to assume half traveled north and half south on Brookhurst. The obvious concern for our homes on Mt. Cimarron Street would be the number of cars passing through our neighborhood to exit at Garfield Avenue. Because of a few bends on this street, I must back out of my

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 7

driveway slowly because of the cars that already regularly

go through. Add the extra traffic, and the additional speed in which fast-food diners are usually speeding through life with, and we have a dangerous situation.

Mt. Cimarron deadends to the elementary school, and

have children going to and fro. It is certainly a great concern to have such high volume traffic.

Although progress and tax dollars are important aspects of a strong community, endangering the families in our

neighborhood should be an obvious reason to try to stop this project.

—Lisa McDaniel

I am writing you regarding the McDonald's proposal to relocate to the corner of Brookhurst and Niagara River. I want everyone in Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley to know how opposed our neighborhood, Devonwood Estates, is to this. We have met with the McDonald's team twice now, and we have let them know that we are not in favor of them moving into our neighborhood. Our main concern is all the traffic it will create especially on Mt. Cimarron. As most people know, many cars go through a McDonald's daily. We are also concerned about all the cars entering from the northbound direction on Brookhurst. Right now, in the left turn lane onto Niagara River, there is only room for three cars. There will be major traffic

problems just for the cars to turn left. McDonald's proposed putting a no-right-turn sign as you exit onto Niagara River, but who will be there to enforce this?

Other concerns are the odors, environment, noise, litter and trash. We know that this lot will eventually be leased and used for something besides a Christmas tree lot, pumpkin patch and a fruit stand, but we definitely do not want ANY fast food restaurants going in. Another office building or other business would be fine. We are worried about our property values going down, which they will. McDonald's says they want to be good neighbors to us, but who wants to move somewhere you are not wanted? We are hoping for support from the city on this matter. That is the only way we can stop them, and we are very determined.

—Laurie Brinegar

I Melted Off 45Lbs. Easily! Keeping My Weight Off is a Snap!

Hello, I'm Wendy Rayner. I lost 45 pounds of fat in six short months! I dropped from an uncomfortable size 16 to a petite size 4! I'm sharing my amazing true story with you in hopes that you too will be inspired to have the healthy life you deserve.



For as long as I can remember dieting was a significant part of my life.

I was always embarrassed about my size. If we went to a pool party, I would hide in shorts and oversized t-shirts. People would say to me, "Aren't you hot?"

"Not at all," I would coolly lie. "I'm cool as a cucumber." I wasn't fooling anybody. They knew I was

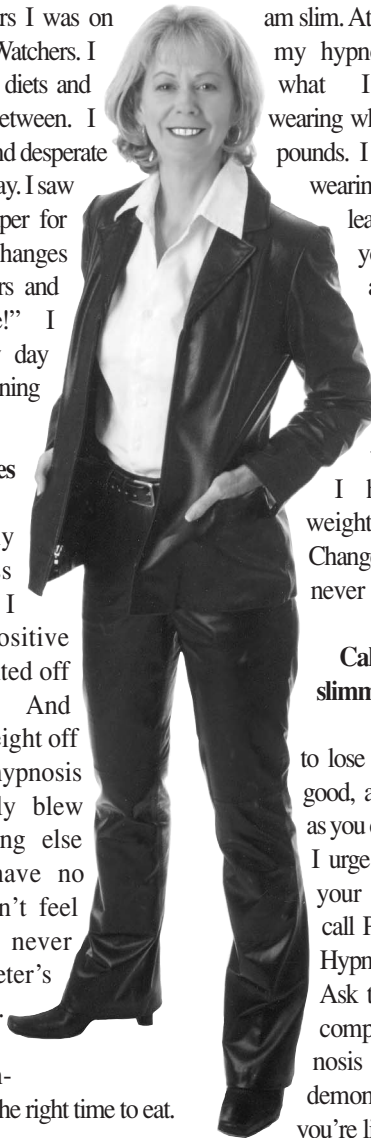
suffering to avoid showing my body.

For 30 years I was on and off Weight Watchers. I tried all sorts of diets and gimmicks in between. I was depressed and desperate to find a better way. I saw an ad in the paper for Positive Changes Hypnosis Centers and said, "I'm there!" I called that very day for my free screening appointment.

Positive Changes Delivered!

I simply can't express how satisfied I am. With Positive Changes, I melted off 45 lbs. easily! And keeping my weight off is a snap. My hypnosis program totally blew away everything else I'd tried. I have no cravings. I don't feel deprived. I never have those dieter's hunger pangs. The only time I'm hungry is when it's the right time to eat.

Is that really me in leather pants?



life! Call now.

I have had so much fun shopping for clothes now that I am slim. At my first session, my hypnotist asked me what I would be wearing when I lost my 45 pounds. I said, "I will be wearing a pair of black leather pants." As you can see in my after pictures, I have my leather pants, in a sleek size 4, and I look great in them! Now that I have lost my weight with Positive Changes, I know I will never gain it back.

Call today, start slimming tomorrow.

If you're ready to lose your weight for good, and feel as good as you can possibly feel, I urge you to pick up your telephone and call Positive Changes Hypnosis right now. Ask to schedule your complimentary hypnosis screening and demonstration. If you're like me, it will be the best decision of your



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Fountain Valley meetings

COMMUNITY MEETINGS Tuesdays

► **Rotary Club:** 7:15 a.m. Tuesdays, Fountain Valley Regional Hospital in the Saltzer Room. (714) 593-1203.

► **Chamber of Commerce:** 11:45 a.m., fourth Tuesdays, Mile Square Park clubhouse at Warner Avenue and Ward Street. (714) 668-0542, e-mail fvchamber@sbcglobal.net, or go to www.fvchamber.com

► **Woman's Club:** 11 a.m. second Tuesdays, Claim Jumper Restaurant, 18050 Brookhurst St. Lunch: \$15. Reservations required: (714) 531-0936. Margaret Murphy.

► **Toastmasters:** 7 p.m. second and fourth Tuesdays, Carrow's Restaurant, Magnolia Street and Warner Avenue. (714) 848-6485.

Wednesdays

► **Pacific Coast LeTip:** 7 a.m., Claim Jumper Restaurant banquet room, Brookhurst Street and Talbert Avenue. (714) 698-0202 Dianne Thompson.

► **Moms Club:** The Moms Club of Fountain Valley meets Wednesday mornings at local parks. For location, call (714) 963-7880.

Thursdays

► **LeTip of West Orange County:** 7:01 a.m. each Thursday, Mile Square Park Country Club at Warner Avenue and Ward Street. Dennis Jenkins (562) 402-0100 or Jim Duncan (714) 965-7874.

► **Kiwanis Club:** 12:15 p.m. Thursdays, Carrow's Restaurant at Magnolia Street and Warner Avenue. Lunch: \$8 at the door. (714) 847-5574.

► **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sen-**

sibly): weigh-in at 6:30 p.m., meeting 7-8 p.m. each Thursday, Fulton Middle School, 8778 El Lago St. Melinda Lynch (714) 962-9123.

► **Women's Business Connection,** a networking group, 7 a.m., second and fourth Thursdays of at Coco's, 18380 Brookhurst St. Diana King (714) 963-2228 or Donna Frank (714) 964-8103.

► **Caregivers support:** A free support group for Alzheimer's caregivers, hosted by Adult Day Services of Orange County, meets 1 to 3 p.m. at Hoag Health Center, 18255 Brookhurst St. The group meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month. Reservations: Maria Alcantra (714) 593-9630.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

City Hall meetings: The following Fountain Valley city government entities all meet at 7 p.m. at 10200 Slater Ave. (714) 593-4400.

► City Council, first and third Tuesdays

► Planning Commission, second and fourth Wednesdays

► Community Services Commission, fourth Tuesday

► Housing and Community Development Advisory Board, first Wednesday

► Traffic Advisory Committee, third Wednesday

► Advisory Committee for the Disabled, first Thursday of odd months.

If your Fountain Valley group has regular meetings that are open to the public, and you would like to be listed in the meeting calendar, send your information to FVview@ocregister.com