
MENTONE MATTERS

Vol. 1, No. 4

BY AND FOR MENTONITES, ABOUT MENTONE, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 2018

STAFFORD'S IS CLOSING!

Mentone Matters learned just Thursday, June 21, that the owners of Stafford's fruit and vegetable stand, located on the corner of the Boulevard and Agate, are retiring and have sold the store. They will have vacated the store by July 1, said the clerk on duty. The owners purchased the store from the Staffords nearly 20 years ago, commuting from their home in Moreno Valley, the owner told Mentone Matters some months ago.

The new owners plan to put a pawn shop on the premises.

DOLLAR GENERAL'S PRE-ANNEXATION IS APPROVED

Tuesday, June 19, the Redlands City Council unanimously approved "Resolution No. 7878 for Pre-Annexation Agreement No. 17-02 for the provision of water service for the construction of a 9,100 square-foot retail store (Dollar General) on approximately one acre of land located on Mentone Boulevard between Agate Avenue and Crafton Avenue in the unincorporated community of Mentone (Assessor's Parcel Number 0298-411-95-0000). The project is exempt from environmental review in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 for New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures (Development Services Director Desatnik)." The project surrounds the 1892-built William Winter house. Mentone Matters has not received any information on the future of the house.

And, as reported in the May issue of Mentone Matters: "Resolution No. 7872 of Pre-Annexation Agreement No. 18-01 for the provision of water and sewer service for the development of thirty (30) single family residential lots (Tentative Tract Map No. 20030) on approximately 5.5 acres located at the southeast corner of Crafton and Nice Avenues in the unincorporated community of Mentone (APNs: 0298-231-32-0000 and 0298-231-44-0000). Request submitted by Jim Didion on behalf of property owner Apex Pacific Asset Management, LLC." (Both, courtesy of the City Council Agenda).

MINER SHARES INFO ON MINERALS, FOSSILS AND TREASURES

Chuck Jojola, training coordinator of Inland Empire Prospectors and Miners, Inc., the Highland chapter of the Gold Prospectors Association of America, shared his expertise in a slide show at the MACA meeting on Tuesday, June 12, in the Mill Creek Cattle Company's Diamond Jim's Saloon. His talk was organized into "fossils, lodes and treasures."

Jojola first described finding a fossilized tooth and jawbone from a menoceras (ancient relative of the rhino) in the area that ranges from Barstow to the Cajon Pass. Also found were 2 teeth from the upper jawbone of a Hydracodon, likewise related to rhinos, but with no horns and it is extinct. It was the largest land mammal, weighing in at 18 tons. Also found in our general area has been the Paraceratherium, which he likened to the large animals in Star Wars.

Leading up to discussing lodes (Editor's note: "a vein of metal ore in the earth" or "a rich source of something": Google), Jojola described how molten material surfaces, then erosion reveals gold-bearing dirt. He stated he dowses for locations in which to dig for gold and also suggested looking for it on inside curves of stream beds; that is called placer gold. Brown dirt, he went on, suggests rusty iron and pyrite (Editor's note: pyrite is also called "fool's gold"!). Black sand - in the Mill Creek area - suggests heavy metal like gold. Located between the San Andreas and San Jacinto earthquake faults are gold mines in Mentone, he continued. Blue dirt, like the Blue Cut, is 60% silver and 40% gold, similar to the Comstock Lode. The gold is invisible, he said - so fine you can't see it, but it is mined every day. The lode goes through Mentone, from the Santa Ana, where it divides. At Cajon creek, the lode crosses the freeway and railroad (through the Cajon Pass).

Jojola continued with the Mentone Legend: buried treasure - reportedly around Greenspot, but it probably ended up in Loma Linda. The treasure was stolen from the Catholic Church. Another treasure was from an 1892 robbery, which is reputed to be buried up in the riverbed above the dam. In all, Jojola listed 7 treasure stories from various areas, including 1855, 1872 and 1911 treasures, which ended up in Utah, as well as a 1920 Montezuma treasure map that indicated a 1520s theft, now buried in Kanab, Utah. He concluded with a reference to Indian artifacts in the Big Bear area (Jojola is a member of a New Mexico tribe).

In the Q&A, Jojola explained "dowsing" for gold: using two poles, held parallel to the ground, he said they would cross where there was gold. A friend, he further stated, successfully "dowses," using just a paper map. See the last page here for their flyer.

OP-ED PAGE

Mentone's blight is increasing: it is losing another long-time, useful store - not only the thrift stores, one of which is empty, but now Stafford's, which has provided reasonable alternative prices to those of other stores for years, is leaving town. What *is* blight? It is a term borrowed from the agriculture industry and generally means the "[deterioration](#) of part of a town or city due to [ageing](#), [neglect](#), and lack of financial support for maintenance." (Definition courtesy of Wiktionary). Why do we need another pawn shop? Downtowns usually exhibit blight when the stores selling new things move out and thrift stores - much as I love them - and pawn shops move in. We would like to see more new stores, albeit not ones who are willing to pre-annex to Redlands. We are getting a Dollar General store but the developers, being from out of town, have pre-annexed it.

And what will Redlands do about the new business' water service? Demand pre-annexation if *any* changes are made? Remove the water meter while the new owners are preparing to move into the property, and then demand upwards of \$80,000 to replace the same kind of meter - as they did on the proposed Tom's Burgers property?

Of course, if Harmony goes through, CalTrans will widen the Boulevard and these problems will "go away" with the businesses.

With the appearance of the new, pre-annexed Dollar General store (which store we need but not the annexation) and also the pre-annexed development at Crafton and Nice (which we don't need?), the noose is tightening around Mentone. We need to do something to preserve our way of life, which will certainly disappear if Redlands is successful in annexing the rest of our properties without our vote, as stated in the May issue of Mentone Matters.

Mentone Matters regrets being so late publishing this issue; we had hoped to have MentoneMatters.com up to date but were unable to, due to factors beyond our control. At present, it contains some news from last month and parts of a "template" which will be removed as soon as possible.

If anyone out there wants to donate some time helping with the website, as we donate our time to bring the news to Mentone, such help would be most appreciated.

As always, if you know someone who would enjoy news about Mentone, feel free to invite them to send an e-mail to mentonematters@aol.com and we'll send along the past issues. Those issues will also be archived on the website, when it is fully operational.

Advertising, also, is welcomed and reasonable. E-mail mentonematters@aol.com for rates.

CHAMBER AND MACA HOLD "MENTONE DAYS"

Mentone Days was celebrated on Saturday, June 2, in the DiMuros' large backyard, off Wabash and across from the Stater's complex. MACA (the Mentone Area Community Association) and the Chamber of Commerce put on the event; they hope it will become an annual tradition, it was stated at the May Chamber meeting.

Vendors sold crafts, dream catchers, Straight Outta Mentone Beach" t-shirts and "I Love Mentone" signs, among other things.

"The Smooth Combo" was the participating band.

Some residents hope that the town will return to its western tradition, following the decorative example of Mill Creek Cattle Company and Diamond Jim's Saloon. One example would include re-covering at least the fronts of the stuccoed buildings along the Boulevard (some of which reportedly were originally wood fronted - maybe even "false"-fronted), with old-looking wood, recapturing the Old West in appearance. As reported in the May issue of Mentone Matters, former resident (now living in Redlands) Tom Atchley stated that the small buildings on the Boulevard are from the 1890s.

MACA meeting notes:

June 2018 meeting: Organizers considered Mentone Days a success and a kickoff to coming events (see article above). Captain James Bayons introduced a new Lieutenant at the Yucaipa station, _____, who announced crime statistics as: violent crime: 10%, property crimes: 20%. There were 550 calls for deputies in the last month, 50 crime reports of any type of crime, such as thefts of GPS (lock your cars, folks!), runaways and everything else. June described yet another robbery at Wilbur's: \$19,000 this time; \$13,000 two months earlier; she stated she had contacted a deputy but never heard back.

Coming events: Weeklong celebration planned in 2019. July 4th Community Barbecue; Chili Cookoff, date TBA; Thanksgiving parade. Film festival in a tent: date TBA. Things are going to happen. May 8 program will be retired teacher Tom Atchley, about Mentone history.

CHP officer Brandon Marcos reported 6 collisions in the past month, all at intersections

ORGANIZATIONS MEETING LOCALLY*:

(Religious organizations meet on Sundays unless otherwise noted)

Rocky Point Fellowship
2116 Mentone Blvd.,
Mentone, 92359

Avodah Fellowship (Friday nights)
Rocky Point Fellowship (in the fellowship hall)

2116 Mentone Blvd.,
Mentone, CA 92359

Congregational Church UCC
1205 Beryl Ave,
Mentone, CA · (909) 794-2893

Sandals Church East Valley
1325 Amethyst Ave.,
Mentone, CA

Faith Chapel
1259 Agate Ave.,
Mentone, CA 909-863-8145

Seventh-Day Adventist Church of Mentone (English and Spanish) (Saturdays 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.)
1230 Olivine Ave.,
Mentone, CA 909-794-1610

Mentone Indonesian-American Seventh-Day Adventist Church
1331 Turquoise Ave.,
Mentone, CA 909-799-3521

New Life Christian Women's Luncheon @ Mill Creek Cattle Co.,
1874 Mentone Blvd., First Wednesday each month, 10-2
Mentone, CA

Republican Committee Tea Party
Mill Creek Cattle Co., 1st Thursday of the month
1874 Mentone Boulevard,
Mentone, CA

COMET and Chamber of Commerce: Rocky Point Fellowship,
2116 Mentone Boulevard, at 7 p.m. on the last Tuesday of the month.
AA/NA Rocky Point Fellowship, Tuesdays

MACA: Mill Creek Cattle Co., in Diamond Jim's Saloon,
1874 Mentone Blvd., second Tuesday of the month,
Mentone, CA 909/389-0706

**Organizations that aren't listed here are welcome to contact mentonematters@aol.com to have their information included.*

Interested in advertising with us? E-mail mentonematters@aol.com for reasonable rates and information.

VILLAGE NEWS (Where available):

GREENSPOT

According to their Facebook page, Judge Alvarez is expected to announce his decision sometime in July.

CRAFTON

MENTONE BEACH

DOWNTOWN MENTONE:

See headline article "Stafford's is Closing!"

SCROLL DOWN FOR HIGHLAND CHAPTER OF GPAA'S FLYER

Highland Chapter of GPAA

San Bernardino, California

FB: Inland Empire Prospectors and Miners GPAA Chapter (Official)

EMAIL: Tirtha108@pacbell.net

Chapter Home - Gold Prospectors Association of America

www.goldprospectors.org/Community/Chapter/.../HIGHCA



Plenty of fun for All Ages! Meet other gold prospectors, treasure hunters, rock, mineral and metal detecting enthusiasts to get together and share ideas and experiences.

Inland Empire Prospectors and Miners, Inc.

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Our goal is to inform and educate the public and above all find **GOLD!**



We provide gold panning instruction and discuss various prospecting techniques as well as where and how you can find gold for schools, festivals, fairs and special events.



We teach using our equipment and provide instruction on ways we can protect the environment by removing trash and filling in holes.



Newbies are Welcome!
Kids always Welcome!

Chapter meetings are held on the **3rd Tuesday of each month** at the San Bernardino Elks Lodge 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Come early, 5:30 PM, if you would like dinner or refreshments.

From the 210 Fwy. take the Waterman Ave. exit, go South to Highland Ave. turn left (East) to 2055 Elks Dr. (approx. 3/4 mile on the right just past the baseball field) drive to the top where the lodge is.

You are cordially invited to attend our meetings. Check us out there is no obligation. As a chapter of the Gold Prospectors Association of America (GPAA) we are prohibited from charging dues.

Don't know how to prospect? No equipment? Use ours. We will teach you. Bring the whole family, this is an experience the whole family can enjoy. Nature, fresh air, get away from normal life if only for a few hours. A quick charge of the O'1 batteries. Our goal is to have FUN oh! & to find **GOLD!!!**

Gene 323-683-8437 Marvin 909-797-4634

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Your contribution is tax-deductible.



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