



News from the Friends of

The Bernard Biological Field Station

Of the Claremont Colleges

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www.fbbfs.org

City Council Election Issue

Statements from Candidates inside

More info may be found at
www.smartervoter.org

✓✓✓ Sightings

- coots sailing quietly on the lake, diving for delicacies
- delicate green new growth on sagebrush, elderberries, and willows
- the last bright red toyon berries
- seedlings emerging in the damper shade of shrubs
- ladybugs searching for early aphids
- the rustle of lizards
- frost damage to the laurel sumac
- squadrons of mosquito fish roiling the lake edge
- the geometric branching seen in the leafless poison oak
- fluff of coyote brush fruits floating on the surface of the water
- hawks sitting high, waiting to swoop on rabbits or squirrels
- the first, brilliant yellow blossoms of the golden currants
- lemonade berry buds like groups of tiny, pink balls
- groups of yellow and white flags marking areas of student study

Folk Music Festival

If you can help with our kid's booth on May 5, please email and let us know. It's fun, and the music is great!

Teachers and Group Leaders

The spring is a great time to visit the BFS!

To arrange a visit,
call (909) 625-8701

or fill out a use form online

The CGU Housing Project

The project has begun and is expected to be finished in August 2008. Soon the huge Torrey pines at the south edge of the Botanic Garden parking lot will be cut down.

General Plan

The new General Plan has been approved. Its underlying theme is the importance of sustainability in everything to do with the City. This, of course, includes environmental sustainability. The Open Space element makes the value of natural open space clear, and the City Council agreed to include open space and environmental resources in the list of resources important to our heritage.

A note: The Youth Sports Facilities staff report listed the BFS as a possible alternative site for playing fields (see city website) but protests by members of the Friends resulted in its being removed from the list.



"A tour of the property readily convinces visitors of the importance of keeping such a beautiful expanse of land, shrubs, and trees for scientific purposes ."

Robert J. Bernard in "An Unfinished Dream" pg 708

These statements are presented in the order received.

Mike Maglio

(magfam@earthlink.net (909)267-8088)

The Bernard Biological Field Station serves an important role in the education of area school children and as a laboratory for important research for the Claremont Colleges. It is my sincere hope that the area continue to serve that capacity while at the same time preserving the rights of the land owners to conscientiously use the area in a manner befitting the intent of the original owners of the land. Development and conservation can be important allies in ensuring multiple uses for land in service of the public good.

Jackie McHenry

(jackie.mchenry@verizon.net (909) 621-5412 www.jackiemchenry.org)

I'm proud to have helped with our new General Plan which emphasizes sustainability, and I hope to continue increasing Claremont's financial, social, political, and of course, environmental, sustainability. My husband and I started small 23 years ago by replacing our lawn with drought-tolerant plants and only running one car. As a council member since 2003, I attend conferences on sustainable development. I've worked towards increasing recycling and the purchase of hybrid vehicles. I worked hard on Measure S so that we can continue preserving as much as possible of the natural open space that's so important to the look and feel of Claremont.

The Bernard Field Station is part of our natural open space. It is an important educational resource for the college community and for the general Claremont community. When I was in the Campus Women's Hiking Group, we visited the field station several times and were delighted and amazed at the wonderful wild life and plants we saw in this place that few of us had known existed. How sad I was when I heard a new campus was going to be built on its grounds so that part would be lost to our community. I knew other development had been proposed from time to time, but didn't think that anyone would really be so shortsighted as to destroy this treasure. It seems to me that there must be a middle ground and that those who want to save it and those who want to develop it should talk. Surely something could be worked out that would benefit us all, and surely working together is in everyone's best interest. I promise to do my best to see that this happens.

Peter Yao

(p.yao@computer.org (951)751-2540)

The City of Claremont is about 14 square miles in size. The developed area is about 10 square miles. Claremont residents currently enjoy the remaining 4 square miles of City owned and private land as undeveloped open space either by not seeing buildings or participate in open space activities like watching wildlife, hiking, biking or in my case, running. I fully support the wishes of Claremont residents as captured by the Updated General Plan in keeping the current undeveloped land as permanent open space in Claremont. Open space adds to the quality of life in Claremont in environmental and sustainable terms. Open space adds value beyond that of passive parks and outdoor sports facilities.

I supported both the failed Assessment District financing method and the successful Measure S bond financing method in purchasing Johnson's Pasture (JP). Acquiring JP was my single objective beyond that of local political disagreements. We must follow CWC's lead and work with the State of California as partners in acquiring the remaining acres of Claremont hillside as soon as possible.

BFS is open space in Claremont even though it is on flatland. It is one of the last remaining undisturbed open-spaces along our busy Foothill Blvd. It too is under development pressure by its current owner, the

Claremont Colleges. While the City respects the philosophy of private land /private use, it must nevertheless act as principles in promoting the quality of life for all Claremonters regarding natural land. Disturbing a natural laboratory for recreational use such as parks is unacceptable. Building on or near BFS should be done as an absolute last resort and not based on efficiency factors or economic reasons. BFS is a city treasure. We are fortunate to enjoy it today. We must work together in extending its benefit for future generations.

Linda Elderkin (www.elderkinforclaremont.org elderkin4council@aol.com (909)626-0389)

I very much appreciate the opportunity to write to you and to share my deep commitment to wilderness, nature and natural open space. By heritage, inclination, and personal choice this is a central theme in the life of our family. The blue and green colors of my City Council campaign reflect the mountains, lakes, skies, and evergreens of my native Colorado. We have lived in Claremont for over 30 years. I have walked many times in the Wilderness Park. I have spent quiet solitary moments in Johnson’s Pasture. I have taken refuge often in the Botanic Gardens right here in the heart of Claremont. In all of these I have enjoyed photographing creatures and the changing plants and trees from season to season. Our family has grown up here with all these wonderful open spaces for us to share together and we are grateful for the difference it has made to each of us.

Our family has also benefited so much from the Field Station over the years. School field trips to explore science in a classroom in nature have provided interesting learning experiences for them. Badge work in that same natural environment has advanced their experiences in Scouts. This is a valuable partnership with our youth and an asset for our community.

And of course, in our beautiful city, I daily enjoy our trees, parks, and visual open spaces. I am firmly committed to the care and protection of those trees and parks. Indeed one of my top priorities for our Claremont, stated from the first day of the campaign reads simply: Protect and enhance our trees, parks, and open space. This is a day-to-day, year-to-year, long-term commitment to a local sustainable natural environment. Sustainability should be the lens through which all of our city decisions are made. Achieving our long term visions for this community depends on our vigilance in examining each choice for its potential to best shape a sustainable city.

I value your participation in all parts of the journey we are taking into our future. Claremont is a unique community where volunteer time and energy are major parts of all the many good things in our city. Working together, as we did through two elections to save Johnson’s Pasture, will be essential. I believe that the intentional, energetic commitment to valuing and respecting one another and our natural spaces stands at the center of our possibilities for growth. I hope you will join me in the addressing these challenges to come and supporting my candidacy for the Claremont City Council.

Opanyi Nasiali (<http://www.opanyiforcouncil.com> onasiali@gmail.com (909)625-4176)

I support the continued preservation of the Bernard Field Station as an educational and community resource. Its large size makes it a valuable habitat for native plants and animals—an oasis of natural open space in a built-up urban environment.

I was born and raised in rural Kenya. Surrounded by wooded areas, we took this natural setting for granted. My young friends and I would frequently go on “adventures of curiosity” into the equatorial rain forests where the rays of the sun barely penetrated the layered tree canopy. While in the forest we listened to the many birds singing, even as we maintained vigilance to avoid creeping creatures, especially poisonous snakes

such as the Black Mamba. This was an environment both as peaceful as it was potentially dangerous for youngsters. For us, it was an exciting and unfettered encounter with nature.

Then I came to the U.S. and encountered the San Fernando Valley of virtually wall-to-wall buildings gridded by highways and the rest of the urban infrastructure. This was overwhelming and alien to me given my rural upbringing. After graduating from college, Kathryn and I eventually settled in the Inland Empire, following jobs and affordable housing away from the dense and expensive metropolitan area. The past 25 years have transformed our part of the San Gabriel area from one of ample open space, groves, and vineyards to urban sprawl. Open space seems to be evaporating.

I reflect on my experience to make the point that we in Claremont are very fortunate to have a community that values open space as a natural resource. Because of the foresight and work of members of our community going back many, many years, we have managed to acquire and preserve significant tracts of hillside land. The recent passage of Measure S with more than a seventy percent plurality reinforces once more our community's commitment to open space preservation. For me personally the undeveloped chaparral and hillside reminds me of the "bush" where I grew up. It's not tropical rainforest, but it provides the same opportunity for personal renewal and encounters with nature, and its continued presence and health helps strengthen our ecosystem. I am gratified that my work in the campaign to pass Measure S will result in preservation of that natural resource for future generations.

The Bernard Field Station and the hillsides to the north are complementary. My opinion is that the need for open space will only increase. The solutions to the challenges of growth by the Colleges will be found in the land already developed and in the less sensitive land to the east. As a council member, I would ensure that these types of solutions, which are consistent with our new general plan, received favorable treatment by the City.

Sam Pedroza (www.sam4claremont.com sam4claremont@verizon.net (909)964-2047)

My name is Sam Pedroza and I am a candidate for the Claremont City Council. One of my reasons for running is that I am motivated by the importance this community places on open space. I too, value open space and believe that these open spaces are a defining characteristic of our town. I also appreciate the work that involved individuals have made towards open space preservation, including the work by the Friends of Bernard Field Station.

I was supportive of our hillsides long before it became the popular thing to do. As a six year board member of the Claremont Wildlands Conservancy, I advocated for the preservation of our hillsides and worked to acquire recent additions to the Claremont Wilderness Park. Our crowning achievement was the successful passage of a bond for the purchase of Johnson's Pasture. I also served as a member of the Citizens' Committee for Hillsides/Open Space/Conservation for our General Plan. I am proud of our General Plan's sustainability features and for our citizens' collective vision for our city for the next 20 years. It is a city council members' vision that will continue to acquire and value our open space.

Advocating for open space, for me, goes beyond the borders of Claremont. As a member of the Sierra Club San Gabriel River Conservation Committee I co-founded an organization called Amigos de los Rios (Friends of the Rivers). Amigos is an organization that now is its own non-profit environmental organization targeting open space opportunities along the banks of the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Rivers. Amigos is helping to redefine what it means to be an environmental advocate to a Latino population that typically does not identify itself with environmental causes, but values open space for health, culture and quality-of-life. Amigos is the inspiration for an innovative and ambitious program called the Emerald Necklace. The Emerald Necklace

is a vision for a 17 mile loop of parks and greenways connecting 10 cities and nearly 500,000 residents along the Río Hondo and San Gabriel Rivers. I foresee an opportunity to connect our own Thompson Creek Trail to the San Jose Creek and ultimately to the San Gabriel River. This could make Claremont an Emerald City as well. Linked to the Emerald Necklace is the San Gabriel River Discovery Center. A LEED Platinum education facility planned in the Whittier Narrows Nature Center, it is a facility that I helped to envision. It is a project that I have worked on as an Environmental Planner for the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County and my previous job at the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District.

I strongly believe that I am the candidate that will bring the farsightedness and realization for open space to the Claremont City Council. I am proud to have the endorsement of the Sierra Club and the Claremonters Against Strip Mining. My education and experience provide me with the training and my goals and strong environmental ethic give me the motivation. I ask for your support and vote on March 6.

Mike Keenan

(votemichaelkeenan@gmail.com)

The scientific value of the Robert Bernard Field Station has just increased since the release of the international climate change report. Why you may ask? The station and the plants and animals of this barely ecological patch, represent so to speak, a thermometer of extreme weather adaptations of life under a Mediterranean climate. We have a lot that can be learned from them in regards to our own adaptation to what looks like future of increased weather changes. Given that this station is the only existing walk on station in any of the worlds five other Mediterranean climates, the station will become a wealth of scientific research in areas of extreme weather change, and should therefore be preserved by all costs under the current dire circumstances. It just may provide a window into our future as its does to our past.

A number of grievances exist that I want to address as a council member in regard to land use issues and the station.

The lot line adjustment left out a plot line and therefore the legal definition is wrong.

Other plot line changes have occurred without any approval process or open meetings of the neither planning committee nor council. There is no public record of such meetings.

The tentative tract map has expired and without a final map approval no deeds of property can be exchanged under the general plan and the California Map Act. An actually the county assessors map shows that other parcels may have been created.

I know of no meeting that has occurred between the colleges and city council and the public record does not show of any meeting of taking place.

I do not recognize the so-called agreement. How can a suit over an EIR turn into a development agreement. The signature was between a college employee and CUC.

The city determines what an agreement shall be. And besides any agreement requires that two officers of the nonprofit sign off which did not happen. In short, the “agreement” is a legal FICTION. The city has so far abrogated its responsibilities on this matter under the land use development code.

Under the Open Space element a new independent biological assessment is over due as to the status of not just the endangered species that live on the station but all other inhabitants.

As your council member I will not need to be arrested in order to protect the field station and I have to do is uphold the existing law. This is my promise.

CANDIDATE FORUMS:

Wed. February 14 – hosted by the League of Women Voters, El Roble Intermediate School , 665 N. Mountain Ave, 7pm

Sat. February 17 – hosted by the LWV at Claremont Manor, 650 W. Harrison Ave, 2-3:30 pm

Thurs. February 22 – hosted by the Claremont Kiwanis at St. Ambrose's Church, 830 W. Bonita Ave, noon

Sun. March 4 – hosted by Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church, 435 Berkeley Ave, 2-3:30 pm