

# HHIA Newsletter



February 2011

Hacienda Heights Improvement Association P.O. Box 5235, Hac. Hts., CA 91745

## President's Corner

Let me begin by introducing myself. At our January regular meeting, I was elected the President of *HHIA* for 2011. I have lived in Hacienda Heights for 56 years and I attended Los Robles and Palm Elementary Schools, Orange Grove Jr. High School, and Los Altos. My parents, John and Alice Eckman moved here when there was a garden of roses at Clark and Seventh Avenues and you picked up your mail and shopped in La Puente. My dad worked for the Southern California Edison Company for 43 years in the Transmission Department and my mom was a teacher at Kwis, Hilgrove and Los Robles Schools. I have worked at Edison for 32 years in various positions. I have been married to my wife, Mary, for 29 years. I met her at Edison, where she worked for 31 years. We have two children. Laura graduated from Chico State University last year and John Patrick is in his senior year in the School of Engineering at the University of Michigan. Hacienda Heights has been an excellent community to grow up in, live in, and raise a family in. I want to serve the community that has been so very good to me.

I want to recognize **Mike Hughes** and **Jim Snyder** that were board members that were termed out of office this year. Mike has served as President of the *HHIA* for the past four years. It didn't start then; however, Mike has served on the board for 14 years starting back in 1996. During that time, he held many different positions, and was President a total of 8 years. Mike is very passionate about the Hacienda Heights community, the people in it, and the environment that surrounds us. He is a constant advocate for improving our living environment with every organization and governmental agency he is in contact with. Jim has served on the *HHIA* Board for ten years beginning in 1998. For the past four years, he has been the Board Secretary. He also has served as Chairperson for Streets and Highways and has been our resident expert in that area. He also has served as Chairperson for the Jim Davis Beautification Day the past four years. Jim has served our community and his church in many different aspects. One of his more infamous service duties has been the voice of Glen A. Wilson High School football and basketball games and the marching band field show competition, The Golden State Field Classic. I had the pleasure to work with Jim at Wilson and on the *HHIA* Board. He is the consummate gentleman. He is always willing to do whatever is asked and he does it well. He continues to work at Wilson High School long past all his children graduating from there. It has been my privilege to work with both of these individuals. Hacienda Heights is much better off, because of their service and dedication. I want to sincerely thank them for their service, efforts, and dedication. They leave very large shoes to fill!

I would also like to introduce our two new board members; **Jeff Yann** and **Brent Palmer**. Jeff is no stranger to the *HHIA*. He has served as a board member for 12 years starting back in 1991. He also was President of the Board for two years. Jeff has a great deal of experience with environmental issues in our community. He was one of the initial leaders when the "fight" began on the nearby dump. He will be serving as your Environmental and Water Chairperson this year. This is Brent's first year as a board member for the *HHIA*. It is so great to get some "new blood" on to the board. I will look to him for some fresh new and innovative ideas as we move forward this year. Brent has been very active in the Boys Scouts in Hacienda Heights for many years. I know he is a heck of an ocean fisherman, because I went on a scouting fishing trip with him one time, when my son was in scouts. Brent will be serving this year as your Streets and Highways Chairperson.

I look forward to working with the other members of the Board. They are tried and true veterans that have served Hacienda Heights ably for many years. They are concerned community members, experts in many fields, and enjoy serving in many different roles. We hope this will be a meaningful year and we move forward to better the community we live in. If you have any suggestions or questions, please join us at our monthly meetings on the third Monday of each month in the Board Room of the HLPUSD office on Gale Ave. I look forward to a very productive year!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Eckman".

# CONSOLIDATING MAIL PROCESSING CENTER OPERATIONS

*By Johanna (Hanny) Zamora, Community Relations Chairperson*

I attended the meeting on Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, at the Industry Hills Expo Center regarding moving the U.S. Postal Area Mail Processing (AMP) Center now in the City of Industry on Gale Ave. to another facility to improve operational efficiency and/or service.

An AMP study was initiated to evaluate the transfer of the mail processing center from the City of Industry to the Processing & Distribution Center in Santa Ana. The initial results of the study were discussed and then members of the community were allowed to ask questions and provide feedback. The public's input will be considered prior to a final decision.

Mail volume has decreased by 20% since 2007, leaving the USPS with an excess capacity of equipment, staff, and facilities to process a declining volume of mail. To consolidate operations and facilities makes sense, the study concludes. The current revolution in communication technologies, electronics, and transportation has changed the way Americans communicate and conduct business. Electronic bill payments, E-mail, and instant messaging offer alternatives to the use of stamped first-class mail. The volume of collection mail placed in post office lobbies and collection boxes, and mail picked up by letter carriers, is rapidly declining. These changes are creating financial challenges for the U.S. Postal Service.

The proposed annual savings outlined in the study is approximately \$1.1 million. Due to consolidation, a net decrease of approximately 26 positions is projected.

Business mail acceptance and retail services will remain the same at the Industry Processing Center, but at other locations, such as the Hacienda Heights office, they are subject to change. Delivery of mail to residences and businesses will not change. Collection box pick-up times are subject to change as well.

Mr. Don Sachs, Executive Director of the Industry Council (Chamber), took the podium and said he represented at least 2,500 businesses in the City of Industry and these businesses were totally opposed to this proposal.

Written comments may be sent to:     Manager Consumer Affairs  
                                                           Santa Ana Distribution Center  
                                                           3101 W. Sunflower Ave  
                                                           Santa Ana, CA 92799-9325

## **HHIA Goals for 2011**

1. Identify and recommend to the County, community improvement projects that are identified in the Hacienda Heights Community Plan.
2. Continue to participate in the drafting of the new County of Los Angeles General Plan.
3. Work with the County to have an oak tree planted with a memorial plaque at the new Orange Grove Park in memory of Barbara Fish.
4. Participate in the design and usage of the Hacienda Heights Community Center site.
5. Promote reserve deputy participation in quality of life patrols in Hacienda Heights and recognize our sheriff station volunteers.
6. Participate in the "I Love America Parade" on Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. Continue to organize and promote the Jim Davis Beautification Day to be held on Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>.
7. Complete "standard operating procedures" for the various functions of each board officer and chairpersons in the HHIA.
8. Participate in new membership projects and activities.
9. Work with the County, to promote the use of public streets in all new developments in Hacienda Heights.
10. Participate in the development and enhancement of bikeways in Hacienda Heights including the San Jose Creek Bikeway.
11. Provide input to exhibit design for the San Gabriel River Discovery Center to assure educational and recreational needs of Hacienda Heights are met.

# 63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Annual HHIA Dinner Meeting

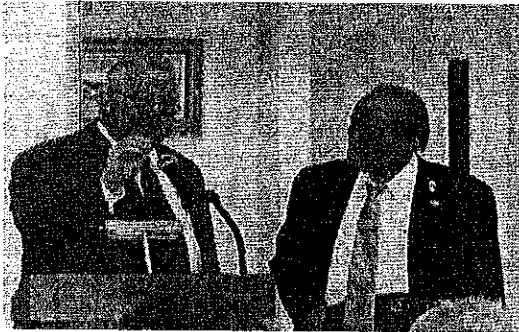
By Jean Robson, Dinner Meeting Chairperson

HHIA held its Fourth Annual Dinner Meeting to celebrate our 63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary at Steinmetz Senior Center on Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. Over 80 guests attended this gala event. The room decorations and flower centerpieces made for a festive atmosphere.

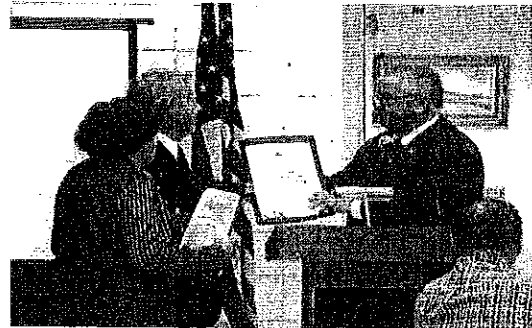
**Mike Hughes** opened the meeting and introduced the new board members; **Brent Palmer** and **Jeff Yann**. The Certificate of Merit Honorees were **Rudy Almeida** and **Lillian Avery**. Rudy's daughter and grandchildren were in attendance and Mark Avery, Lillian's son, accepted her certificates since she passed away in December. Supervisor Don Knabe, State Senator Bob Huff, and Assemblyman Charles Calderon provided proclamations of appreciation for their years of service to the community of Hacienda Heights and the HHIA. Those awards were presented by **Dickie Simmons**, **Mike Hughes**, and **Jean Robson**. In addition to the year-end reports from each board member, community reports on the activities of the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority, Hills and Open Space Council, the proposed Community Plan, and the Census were presented. **Sergeant Toni Calton**, from the City of Industry Sheriff's Department reviewed the crime statistics for Hacienda Heights. And last, but not least, outgoing board members, HHIA President, **Mike Hughes**, and HHIA Secretary, **Jim Snyder**, were recognized for their years of service to the HHIA and Hacienda Heights.

We also want to thank an anonymous donor that donated \$100 to the HHIA that night at the dinner! For the first time in nearly 20 years, a reporter from the San Gabriel Valley Tribune attended the meeting and wrote a very nice article about the festivities that appeared in both the Tribune and Highlander during the week of January 18<sup>th</sup>. We want to thank **Jan Dovidio** for assisting in getting us the press coverage.

I want to thank everyone that donated food, raffle gifts, and their time to assist in making the dinner another great success. A special thanks to **Mary Tang** for the layout and printing of the program, to **Jeff Yann** for editing the HHIA History, and to **Larry Howe** and **Lou Luaders** for all the clean-up work and overseeing the many activities required to make the dinner happen.



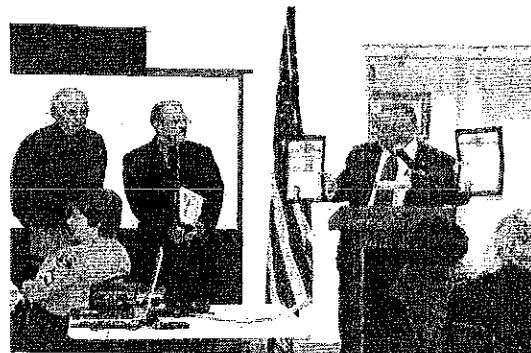
Field Deputy Dickie Simmons presents Rudy Almeida with Certificate of Merit



Field Deputy Dickie Simmons and Dinner Chairperson Jean Robson present Lillian Avery's son, Mark, with her Certificate of Merit



President Mike Hughes opens 63rd Annual Meeting



Field Deputy Dickie Simmons presents Jim Snyder and Mike Hughes Recognition Certificates for their years of service to Hacienda Heights and the HHIA

**A special note from the Board:** We want to give a very special thanks to **Jean Robson** for all her work in organizing this event, obtaining the certificates of merit and appreciation, and ensuring that everything went off without a hitch! Jean has coordinated this annual event the past four years. It would not have happened, without her hard work and efforts.

**A sincere thank you, Jean!**

Mark your calendars: don't miss next year's annual dinner. It will be held on Friday, January 13, 2012, same place and same time! It will be here before you know it!

Hacienda Heights Improvement Association  
P.O. Box 5235  
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

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### Attention Members

We are trying to bring our membership communications and list into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!

We want to start sending out HHIA information and notices to you via Email.

Please send your Email address to Adria Ybarra, Membership Chairman at [Andybarra@yahoo.com](mailto:Andybarra@yahoo.com)  
Thank you in advance!

### Next HHIA Meetings

*March 21st*  
*April 18th*  
*May 16th*

7:00 PM

Board Room, Hacienda La Puente  
Unified School District Offices

### 2010 HHIA Board of Directors

**President/Newsletter**

John Eckman ([John.Eckman@sce.com](mailto:John.Eckman@sce.com))

**Vice President/Membership**

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**Secretary/Environmental & Water**

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**Streets & Highways**

Brent Palmer ([brparch@msn.com](mailto:brparch@msn.com))

**Zoning**

Shan Lee ([shan.lee@daumcommercial.com](mailto:shan.lee@daumcommercial.com))

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