

This past year, I have been responsible for reporting on Community Relations for the entire year. And then I took over the Parks & Recreation when Maury Edwards ended his term and stepped down from the Board. I was out of commission for almost four months when my companion dog had to have major surgery and extensive rehab. It was confinement for both of us.

When I report on Community Relations, the major contributors have been our local Kiwanis, the Homestead Museum, Hsi Lai Temple, as well as any major events that will take place in our neighborhood, like the Soup Tasting that is a fund raiser for Meals on Wheels. Also, at the holiday times, I like to let people know the special holiday music that will be supplied by our churches. Occasionally, we have information from a political source telling us about opportunities for our youth, and we definitely want our young men and women to know more about our country and how they can help. The HSI Temple has been very helpful to our community and we have a wonderful opportunity to understand another culture and share our knowledge with each other. If you haven't had the opportunity to visit the Temple, now would be a perfect time to go there since the Chinese New Year starts next week. There is a lot of pageantry and festivities that are exciting to watch.

If you have not visited the Homestead Museum, I hope you will take the time to do so. They are offering so much history to our community, it would be a shame to not take advantage of it. Besides the history aspect, they also offer a lot of classes that help us to tackle projects we wouldn't know how to do. Expand your horizons and visit them.

The Parks and Recreation coverage really adds to my Community Relations. I remember the first time I visited Schabarum Park and was awe struck by the beauty and uniqueness of some of the tree shapes. I called a friend and asked them to please come and take some pictures of them so I could have a model (so to speak) to use for painting. You really have to like trees to see the reverence they project onto you. We are so fortunate to have such a park in our community.

I try to include all that we offer so everyone will have the opportunity to enjoy our community to the fullest. If you have anything you would like to have included in my reports, please let me know. Thank you for all your input and help with our growth. When we share, we all grow!!

Thank you!!!