

KEYS BREEZE



Summer 2002

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

by
Maria Angell

My most profound and sincere thanks to all the volunteers who made our "*Carnival of the Sun*" a smashing success.

We netted nearly \$4,500 to raise money for much needed play structures at the two Keys beaches, which brings our total fund raising efforts to \$17,279. Over 250 attended the Carnival and an incredible 55 volunteers were on hand to make the event both a good time and a financial success. Now only an additional \$8,726 is needed to complete the fund raising goal of \$26,000 and bring world-class playground structures to the Big and Little Keys beaches. The two structures are designed for ages 3-12 with each tailored to their locations: the Little Beach structure is planned with a climbing wall and slide, and the Big Beach structure will have two slides, a climbing wall, a store front window, and a seek and find. The structures will be ordered the moment we have all of the funds in hand and in place 6 to 8 weeks later. Those who either volunteered or just attended the event should be proud to know you are making a lasting contribution to the Ventura Keys community.

It took an enormous amount of community contribution to make Carnival possible... I'd like to mention and thank everyone for their part, especially those who were recruited on the fly without much recognition. So if you read this (and you know who you are!) please know your spontaneity was very much appreciated!!

Without the enormous generosity of **John and Karen Davidson**, the fantastic ensemble of the "**Docka John Band**" would not have been possible. Thank you both for your unyielding commitment to the playground project!

The Committee A warm Thanks to all the women who headed-up each booth and contributed to the development of the Carnival. Your experience, ideas, commitment and contributions were priceless: **Therese Colletto**, for everything from wrist bands to "The Giving Tree and the beverage booth; **Doris Collins** for her suggestion of the silent auction and beverage booth...her experience made a big difference! **Darlene Davidson** for Spin Art, Balloons and set-up; **Elke Fedde**, pop corn, cotton candy and PR fire truck; **Karen Davidson** mastered the fantastic food booth; **Sharon Friedman & Taylor Stampa** for setting-up and managing the ticket booth; **Ann Hoffman**, the awesome cake walk; **Megan Marble**, the successful Giving Tree; **Heidi Prange** for her patience and enthusiasm with Bingo; **JD Sessa**, balloons, canopies, "thank you" notes and the incredible dancers!; **Amy Towner**, way to go with the face painting booth!! and last but certainly not least, the irrepressible **Andrea** for her awesome contribution with the silent auction!

The Muscle **Cliff Simonson** for his remarkable salesmanship at our silent auction booth; **Ken Collins** for the ice runs and the beverage booth; **Stephen Prange** for his patience, the bingo game, set up and break down; **Michael & Fred Sessa** from

Summer
2002

Page 1

Precision Metal Manufacturing for the canopies, set up and break down; Stan Friedman for "calling the game" and my awesome husband Marc Angell for just about everything!!

Silent Auction Contributors

The Heirshbergs for their ticket to Alpine Paradise; Rocky at Top Side Yacht Services for the boat detailing; Helena Pasquerella of Bella-Flor Photography for the portraits; Megan Marble for all the great outdoor clothing from Patagonia; Matt's Cycling Center for the bikes and scooters; Mike & Therese Colletto for their Cruise to Channel Islands aboard the ultimate sport fisher "Lucky Dog"; Marc Angell for the Summertime Sunset Sail aboard the fabulous Catalina 390 "Alexandria", and the Pocket PC; Ann Hoffman for her Kitchen Collection of Gourmet Desserts; Artist, Dr. Morris Leventhal for his original ceramic Vase; Linda Hale for her Menu from Italy's cooking class; Hans Roamer for his Tennis Clinic; Sharon for her Pierpont Swim Lessons; Jennifer at Smart Art; and Vicki Maines for her Wine Lovers Jewelry.

Cake Walk Cake Donors Ann Burns, Elke Fedde, Susan Lee, Kim Macatee, JD Sessa, Cheryl Shaw, Ann Hoffman. Thank You all!!!

The Water Balloons Thanks for all those water balloons (2,500!!!), Tricia Krakowski & her teenagers; Dirk & Eco Shumaker and Darlene Davidson. Thanks to Scott Heirshberg and Travis & Brent Paul for "being there," to run the booth and to Andy Soter for the hysterical encore of the balloon fights and a special thanks to Dr. Dave Harris for taming the wild animals!

And All the Rest The exciting Brickhouse Dancers, Chris Sullivan, Brook & Loni Harte, Melinda & Melissa Jones and Mary Harte of Brickhouse Fitness Studio for making it possible! An

additional thank you too the fantastic *Ventura High Dancers*, Taryn, Tori & Jessi!!!!

Paul Masiel was responsible for the friendly visit from our local Fire Departments Community Relations Fire Truck. We thank him and the others who made the visit possible; Karen, Kyler and Ali Farr, especially Kyler for his terrific editorial in his school newspaper. Nancy Klein for her artistic spontaneity and daughter Chloe for helping with "Sandy Candy". Toni Brent, for the helium balloons and Jim Cook from Accu Air for the Helium in the balloons!!; Toy Metropolis for their Bubble Machine that I forgot to turn on... The Harbor Hatter for the fun hats; Ron Rose for his accounting management; Brad Barns for "saving us money on insurance;" The City of Ventura for expediting our block party without any red tape! The Ventura Keys Homeowners' Board for giving the project a green light; and, saving the best for last, Diane Risk for lending the band her beautiful voice and for coming all the way from Sacramento to do so!!!

What a great experience with an awesome group of people. Thank You all so very much!

**A BIT MORE ON THE
PLAYGROUNDS**

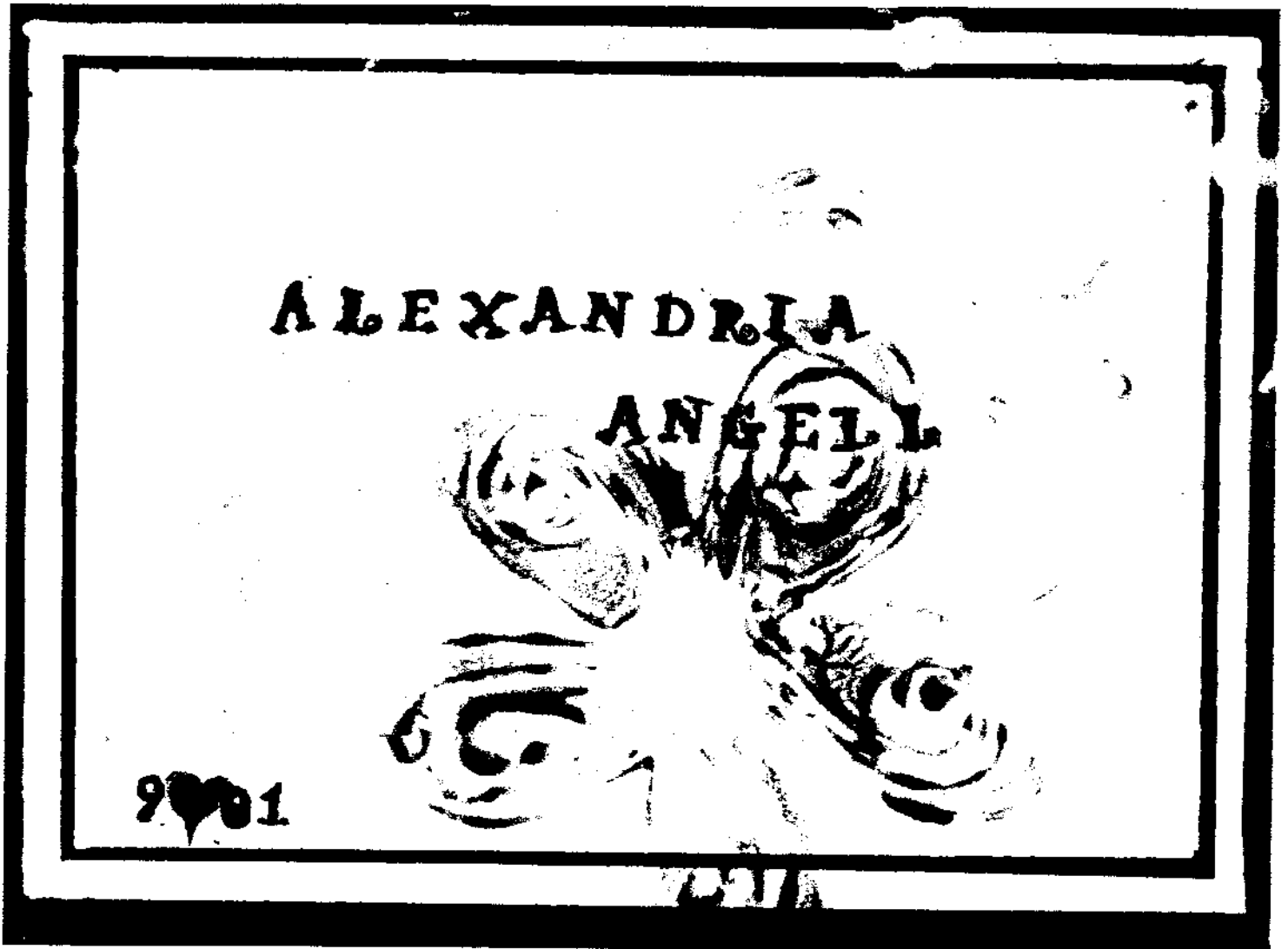
by
Cliff Simonson

The Keys Carnival of the Sun held at the Big Beach last April showed us all the best our community has to offer. Over 250 attendees and an incredible 55 volunteers were on hand to make the event both a good time and a financial success. Those who either volunteered or just attended the event should be proud to know that they are in the process of making a lasting contribution to the Ventura Keys community.

Summer
2002

182

Sample of
"Builder's Club" \$100 Tile



(actual size)

Nearly \$4,500 was raised for the play structures and this puts total funds at \$17,279. Now only \$8,726 is required to complete the fund raising goal of \$26,000 and bring world-class playground structures to the Big and Little Key's beaches. The structures are designed for ages 3-12. Each structure is tailored to the locations: the Little Beach structure is planned with a climbing wall and slide, and the Big Beach structure will have two slides, a climbing wall, a store front window, and a seek and find. The structures will be ordered the moment we have all of the funds in hand and will be in place 6 to 8 weeks later.

This truly is a community effort, but why do we need to do this? The Ventura Keys Association, *NOT the City of Ventura*, owns the Keys' beaches. It's your Homeowner dues that pay for the upkeep and maintenance and improvement of these public areas. The dues are voluntary, and are only \$50 per year per household, but sadly, only about half of the 675 households contribute. This is barely enough to pay for upkeep and maintenance of the two beaches. Which is why it was necessary to *privately* raise the money for the improvement and development of our parks play structures. It is *your* donations to the *Builders Club* and *your* participation in our community fund raisers that makes this possible.

To reach our financial goal we have two final fundraisers, one ongoing and one planned, to reach our goal. Many of you are aware of the *Builder's Club - Your custom made ceramic tile will be placed at each playground site with Builder's Club contributors' names on them.* At the Big Beach there will be a Builder's Club wall and at the Little Beach the shower will be refurbished and lined with the Builder's Club tile. Over 40 people have joined this elite group by purchasing tiles. There are three sizes, \$100, for a 6"x6" tile, \$500 for (4) 4x4 tiles or \$1000 to have your logo

professionally hand painted on one of these beautiful tiles. For all tiles, once you have made your contribution, you will receive a voucher redeemable at Firefly Ceramics here in Ventura where you can have your family name or other special name placed on the tile. What a great way to honor your family and a great cause that is everlasting! The deadline for buying a tile is December 2002. So don't put it off, *Join the Builder's Club today!*

Our second fundraiser is the Key's Home tours. We think this is a first for the Keys. We are looking for six or more homeowners to open their waterfront homes to a waterborne tour of some of the finest homes and most beautiful settings on the coast. The tour is planned for October so there's plenty of time to spruce up your place before the guests arrive! Please call Maria Angell at 805-642-0080 if you wish to volunteer your home.

Again, thank you all for your commitment to this project and thank you in advance for helping us complete our fundraising goals.

KEYS TRAFFIC UPDATE

by
Marc Angell

I'm happy to report that our efforts to modify traffic patterns throughout the Keys are finally showing signs of progress. Most notably are the new stop signs placed on Beachmont at Outrigger. While I'd like to take credit for these new signs due to my recent traffic calming application to the City Traffic Department, the reality is that these signs were installed after years of pressure on the City by residents, long before my family's arrival to the Keys. This could be viewed as good news or bad... on one hand, we have the first implementation of traffic calming in the Keys, on the other, it literally took *years*.

Summer 2002
Pg
4

Ever the optimist, I'll call it good news. In fact, these stop signs should be the start of many changes over the coming year or two. You may be aware of the official announcement by the Port District granting Sondermann Ring Partners the Lease on the large empty field at the foot of Schooner's Way, known officially as Parcels 15 and 16. The Port District desperately needs the development by Sondermann Ring to proceed smoothly and generate much needed cash for the Port. In an effort to promote good-will and just good politics for all people directly affected by the proposed development, Sondermann Ring have agreed to absorb all costs to implement traffic calming measures along Beachmont Street, which will have a positive impact throughout the Keys.

Following the guidelines defined within the City's Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP), I organized several petitions available for signature at this year's Big Beach Carnival held several weeks ago. Thanks to all 68 people who signed them! Among the petitions were requests to close Beachmont at the Arundell Barranca, install stop signs at various intersections throughout the Keys and the installation of "circles" or medians on Beachmont. I recently received a letter from Tom Mericle, Ventura's City Transportation Engineer, acknowledging the petitions and offering suggestions in moving forward.

Tom's first comment pointed out that the installation of stop signs is not used to slow traffic. Research shows the driver may (or may not) actually stop at the sign, giving the pedestrian a false sense of security and the driver tends to speed in between the stop signs to make up for lost time. This sounded bizarre to me, but was confirmed by traffic engineers in two other cities. According to Tom, the stop signs recently installed on Beachmont serve as a right-of-way safety

measure rather than an attempt to slow traffic.

Mr. Mericle defined the criteria required for his office to implement our requests, which include support of 67% of property owners in the "affected area" (also defined) and contact with 90% of the property owners in the same area. Tom also advised that we submit the preferred alternative, having another as backup. For instance, focus on full street closure as the preferred traffic deterrent, while prepared with a plan for implementing traffic circles and one-way closure in case full closure is not possible. Additionally, Tom suggested an entrance treatment at the Beachmont-Harbor intersection (described as a planter-style median on Beachmont as you enter from Harbor, which clearly indicates entrance to a "community") which I will implement into one of the petitions. City officials then verify the petitions, provide an environmental analysis and obtain any required permits. Once this has been completed, the City will install temporary measures for a period of 180 days and if all goes well, the temporary measures are replaced with permanent structures.

Full closure of Beachmont Street would certainly solve the traffic issues and accommodate the request of the boat yard, launch ramp and restaurant owners to have the worms along Anchors Way removed. However, this plan may be turned-down by the Coastal Commission and is opposed by residents of the mobile home park. Therefore, an alternative plan has been developed including a one-way closure (inbound) on Beachmont at the Barranca, medians, traffic circles and street narrowing along Beachmont and possibly Seaview. The focus of our initial approach is concentrated along Beachmont since the consensus is that once deterrents have been placed there, traffic along adjoining streets will benefit. The developers agree that additional

Summary
2002

185

measures may be taken if initial efforts don't solve the problems.

With the successful development of the Parcels by Sondermann Ring hinging upon the satisfaction of Key's residents to their traffic issues, I feel confident we will see movement by the City to implement these changes. The developers agree that traffic will become a much larger problem throughout the Keys once tenants begin to occupy their facilities and are working diligently to prevent this from happening.

I might add that two recent studies on traffic flow on Beachmont and Seaview showed the majority of speeders along these streets were local residents. Please do your part to keep our streets safe for our kids. Pay attention to your speed while driving through any residential neighborhood! The difference between 25 and 35 MPH is barely measurable in your overall drive time, but may mean the difference in the life of a child (and peace of mind for the parent!)

KEYS BARBEQUE

Save the date: Saturday, September 28th!
The Ventura Keys barbecue is a great annual event held at the "big beach" (the corner Beachmont and Seaview) from noon to 4. With lots of good food and music, it's a great way to spend the afternoon and meet some of your neighbors. Volunteers are needed. If you wish to help with the barbecue, please contact Al and Taylor Stampa at 658-1486, or Sharon Friedman at 644-3767. See you all there!

VENTURA KEYS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership continues to grow in the Ventura Keys Historical Society. Established in January, 2000 it is a member of The American Association for State and

Local History (AASLH), and has shelf space in our local Ventura Museum.

The goal is to get as many Keys residents, both new and old, to participate by writing their little history—their family, photos of their home, where they come from, their interests, how they chose the Keys and what they like about living here. This is what history is made of.

If you'd like to get involved in sharing your history, please call Katherine Collins 644-4005, Buki Burke 377-0236, or Joanie Egbert 644-3813.

A FEW IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Abandoned Vehicles	339-4432
Animal Control	388-4341
Police Dept. (Non-emergency)	339-4400
Fire Dept. (Non-emergency)	339-4300
Streetlights (Edison Co.)	800-655-4555
Port District	642-8538
Parks Department (including Marina Park)	642-4550
Crime Stoppers	385-8255
Tip Line	
City Council	654-7827

VENTURA KEYS ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 1086
Ventura, CA 93002
Voicemail: 805-677-2601
Email: venturakeys@hotmail.com

Summer

2002

P. 6