

# INTER-CANYON NEWS

APRIL 20, 2010



## ABOUT THE INTER-CANYON LEAGUE

Welcome to the first issue of the recently resurrected issue of the Inter-Canyon News. It is our hope to reacquaint you with the Inter-Canyon League - who we are, what we do and how you can become involved.

The Inter-Canyon League (ICL), a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and preserving the canyons' way of life, was initially organized in response to the devastating flood of 1969 when a mudslide killed 7 people sheltered at the Silverado volunteer fire station after 18 inches of rain fell within 72 hours.

Major accomplishments of the ICL include administration and allocation of the one million dollar gift received after the 2007 Santiago Fire, securing grant funds to help with community needs, assisting in raising thousands of dollars for the Silverado Library and hosting informational community meetings. The members of the ICL also volunteer and assist with the vaccination pet clinics, the Firefighter's Easter Breakfast, Canyon Clean sweep events and the publication of the Canyon Communities Directory.

The ICL Board of Directors consists of five members nominated and voted for by the existing membership. All residents are encouraged and welcome to attend the Inter-Canyon League meetings that are held at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month, currently at the Silverado Community Center.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Hunt (president) [SensorDev@aol.com](mailto:SensorDev@aol.com)

Mike Colgan (vice president) [colgan7@cox.net](mailto:colgan7@cox.net)

Leslie Paskus (secretary) [lesliepaskus@aol.com](mailto:lesliepaskus@aol.com)

Deanna Craig (treasurer) [canyondmc@cox.net](mailto:canyondmc@cox.net)

Mary Schreiber (at large) [marys4re@earthlink.net](mailto:marys4re@earthlink.net)



To become a voting member, it is required that you attend 3 meetings per year and pay \$5.00 in annual dues. (10/9/10: Local residency is also required.)

A recent changing of the guards occurred recently when long-time members and directors Deborah Johnson and Fran Williams both retired last December after serving more than 30 years combined. Deborah and Fran each received an award in January recognizing their contributions from OC Supervisor Bill Campbell's office. Their dedication and commitment was invaluable. They each worked tirelessly for years serving the canyon communities, and we owe them a huge thank you!

We would like to invite you to join us at our monthly meetings. This is a great time to come together with other canyon residents to learn what the ICL is currently involved in and also an opportunity for you to share any concerns you may have. We hope that you visit the ICL website at [www.intercanyon.org](http://www.intercanyon.org) for more information.

The ICL frequently forms committees to help accomplish goals and address community needs. Current active committees include Friends of the Library, The Inter-Canyon Fire Safe Council, Canyon Watch, Brown Baggers, the History Committee, Santiago Fire Relief Committee and the History Committee. The Santiago Canyons Safety & Security Committee has recently been formed in response to resident concerns regarding speeding vehicles and overall road safety.

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



The Silverado Library will be celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary throughout the month of September. Please plan to attend the special events and entertainment we will be scheduling. Our Library has been an important resource to all Canyon residents.



*Sketch artist Ruth Loc*

The Silverado Library unofficially opened in 1929 when Elsie McClelland, the postmistress, added a few shelves to the log cabin Post Office, and Margaret Morrison, the County Librarian, provided a gift of 60 books. The following year, 1930, the Silverado Library was officially accepted into the County of Orange Library System. In 1964, the Library moved to our current location in the Silverado Shopping Center.

Our Library survives with a combination of County funding, individual donations and fundraising. Once again, the County is cutting the budget, with a 10% reduction in July. Many residents, who appreciate the benefits of having a Library available do not realize that the Friends of the Silverado Library pay for much of the services and activities enjoyed by patrons. Last year, the Friends spent nearly \$7,000 on books, audio books, DVDs, C/Ds and children's reading programs.

At this time, it is vital for Canyon residents to support the Friend's ongoing fundraising efforts. Events planned include: The Vaccination Pet Clinic, The Library Swap Meet, The Library Tea Room & Boutique held at the Silverado Country Fair and The Holiday Fundraiser in December

### **PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY!!**

Volunteers are urgently needed.  
Contact Fran Williams at 714 649-2069  
or [franwill1@cox.net](mailto:franwill1@cox.net).

## INTER-CANYON FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

A recognized leader in the state, the Inter-Canyon Fire Safe Council is dedicated to educating residents on the danger of fire. The FSC organizes regular "chipper" days during which residents can recycle hazardous brush removed from their property; sets up booths at local fairs; invites residents to informational seminars on fire protection; distributes fire prevention information and coordinates with local authorities. Each year, more than 400 residents participate in council activities.

The FSC meets monthly and consists of canyon residents, local volunteer firefighters, employees of the Orange County Fire Authority, US Forest Service and the O.C. Sheriff's Department.

The "Canyon Fire Prevention" brochure was written specifically for the canyon areas in Orange County and contains practical advice on how to make your home as fire safe as possible. Detailed information is also provided on fire safe native plants. A link to a digital copy of the brochure is available on our website ([www.intercanyon.org](http://www.intercanyon.org)).



For more information, contact Mary Schreiber at (714) 323-9181, e-mail at [marys4re@earthlink.net](mailto:marys4re@earthlink.net), or visit the FSC website at [www.canyonfiresafecouncil.org](http://www.canyonfiresafecouncil.org).

## BROWN BAGGERS

The Brown Baggers provide an opportunity for senior men and women in the canyons to come together at lunchtime to socialize with old and new friends and share lively conversations, canyon reminiscences and current happenings.



The group meets monthly on the first Wednesday at noon at the Silverado Community Center for a brown bag lunch and on the third Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. at the Silverado Café for Taco Tuesday.



For more information,  
please contact Judy Meyers at  
(714) 649-2786.

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## CANYON WATCH

The Silverado Canyon group known as Canyon Watch consists of volunteers who patrol their communities during high-risk circumstances. Easily identified by their neon green vests and marked vehicles, Canyon Watch volunteers have helped during incidents such as power outages and car accidents. They can also be seen patrolling on 4th of July.

Canyon Watch members receive training in communicating via GMRS radios. Signals for these radios are transmitted by repeaters in each of the canyons. Residents who are not Watch members can tune into channel 16 or 20 on a hand held FRS (Family Radio Service) radio to keep informed when patrols are active.



For more information regarding the ICL Canyon Watch group of Silverado please contact Gene Robinson at (714) 649-2277 or e-mail [genenmary@cox.net](mailto:genenmary@cox.net).

John Williams heads the Modjeska group known as Fire Watch and can be reached at [firewatch@cox.net](mailto:firewatch@cox.net). For interest in the Canyon Defense Against Wildfires group in Trabuco contact Sharon Stoncato at [sonrise\\_ranch@yahoo.com](mailto:sonrise_ranch@yahoo.com).

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## SANTIAGO FIRE RELIEF COMMITTEE

Following the Santiago Fire in the fall of 2007, the Inter-Canyon League received and was asked to administer more than one million dollars in donations to assist fire victims, primarily canyon residents who lost their homes. To ensure that funds were distributed in accordance with the needs, the ICL established an advisory committee known as the Santiago Fire Relief Committee that reviewed resident applications and made award recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Based on the committee's input and documentation received, more than \$890,000 has been awarded to victims of this devastating fire that struck our canyon communities. The remaining funds, still managed by the ICL, remain in reserve for future community needs that may occur as a result of the fire such as mudslides, debris flows, etc.

For more information regarding the Santiago Fire Relief Committee please contact Fran Williams at (714) 649-2069 or via e-mail at [franwill1@cox.net](mailto:franwill1@cox.net).

## HISTORY COMMITTEE

The canyons we all live in are full of history and stories to tell. We currently have a vast collection including historical books, canyon newspapers, wild-life articles, old mine articles, photos, a geological collection and an extensive collection of photos and articles documenting the '69 flood. The archive is currently stored at the Silverado Library and is available for public viewing. Many of the photos are available at [ocpl.org](http://ocpl.org). From there, click on "search our catalog" - "research center" - "historical images". Enter Silverado in the search window.

We welcome contributions to the archive and any assistance to help preserve and archive collected documents and photos. If you have items of interest to donate (or loan) or you would be interested in assisting with archiving, please contact Mike Colgan at [colgan7@cox.net](mailto:colgan7@cox.net).

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## SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

This is our most recently formed committee to consider matters of public safety and security for canyon residents. Invitations for comment were issued and the first meeting was held on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Canyon resident Arthur Cummins agreed to facilitate this first meeting to support the group in identifying initial concerns, considerations, and possible solutions.

Members of the committee have created a purpose statement and outlined their primary goal as the first order of business (see below):

***It is the purpose of this subcommittee to consider issues of public safety and security brought to our attention, solicit stakeholder opinion, and propose solutions to the Board of the Inter-Canyon League.***

***Our goal is to develop closer relationships with County, State and USFS law enforcement agencies in an effort to foster and encourage mutual respect and understanding regarding matters of public safety and security for canyon residents, motorists, cyclists and recreational users.***

For more information or to join this committee, contact Arthur Cummins at [arthurcummins@gmail.com](mailto:arthurcummins@gmail.com).



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## CHIPPER DAYS: PRODUCTIVE AS USUAL

The ICL Fire Safe Council was the recipient of two federal grants, administered under the California Fire Safe Council. The Canyon Perimeter Defense Grant awarded in the fall of 2008 was coordinated by Mary Schreiber and Jim Fainer of Silverado, which allowed the Fire Safe Council to host six Chipper Day Events. Provided as a community service to encourage residents to keep their properties clear of overgrown brush by providing chipper equipment and manpower the funds from this grant resulted in the disposal of approximately 567 loads of brush and was in excess of 110 tons of hazardous burnable vegetation.



We would like to thank Jim Fainer, Mary Schreiber, Bob Click, the Orange County Conservation Corp, Waste Management of Orange County, Aguinaga Green, OC Parks for providing the location in Modjeska and OC Fire Captain Falcon at Trabuco Station 18 for allowing use of the area in front of the fire station to have a Chipper Day event. A new grant application has been submitted to the California Fire Safe Council which, if awarded, will help fund future chipper day events.

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## Dead and Dying Tree Removal Grant is a Huge Success



The Inter-Canyon Emergency Hazardous Fuels Removal Grant, managed by Leslie Paskus-Amador was awarded in the amount of \$250,150 dollars.

After receiving 94 resident applications, Leslie accompanied a wildlife biologist authorized for field studies on local endangered species on visits to each and every property. Complete survey results were then sent to the BLM who authorized the next phase of compliance, which was sending an arborist to those properties requesting tree removal or pruning to make a determination regarding appropriateness of the request. He also made recommendations on areas where pruning or lifting branches was advisable.

Concurrent with those site visits were visits by the Criteria Evaluation Team. This team was comprised of two residents from the Fire Safe Council, one of which is a retired Battalion Chief from OCFA and three current wildland interface specialists from OCFA. We couldn't think of anyone better to make recommendations on improvements on fire safety than these individuals. They each did an evaluation on every property to determine how requested work would improve on fire safety through fuel modification. After a thorough and exhaustive analysis, 64 properties ultimately qualified for work to be completed, although all the residents from Silverado to Trabuco Canyon receive indirect benefit by an overall reduction of hazardous brush in our communities. The tree and brushwork under this grant began immediately after Thanksgiving and was closed out on January 31, 2010.

The overall success of this grant is due to the dedication of Ms. Paskus-Amador who spearheaded her committee that included Mary Schreiber, Drew Cummings, Mike Colgan, George Ewan, Pat Antrim, and Frances Williams. Deborah Johnson provided important assistance with setting up reporting requirements and creating viable contracts. We would also like to thank Specialized Tree Works, Rob's Tree Service, Gruett Tree Company Inc., Leatherman Bioconsulting, Aguinaga Green Inc., the Orange County Fire Authority and the Orange County Conservation Corp for the professional services they provided.

Due to the overall success of this grant an application for the 2011 grant rounds has been submitted. "It is our hope that we will be awarded this grant to allow us to address additional properties", according to Leslie Paskus-Amador. We are also hoping to use grant funds to reduce our fire exposure along a six-mile stretch of Santiago Canyon Road.

## CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?



All of us living in the canyons know the inconvenience of not having any cell phone service or having very limited service – well, it looks like that soon may be changing with the availability of having your own mini cell phone tower right in your own home.

The AT & T 3G MicroCell, which launched last fall in test markets is now preparing for a national roll out. With the company planning an aggressive launch these MicroCell devices will still require separate broadband Internet service. Wireless calls are routed over the home's broadband connection to produce a stronger signal for a clearer conversation. As of April 16, 2010 AT & T's website indicates that this product is not yet available in the 92676 zip code, however more details and availability update can be found at [www.att.com/3gmicrocell](http://www.att.com/3gmicrocell).

Verizon is offering its "network extender" priced at approximately \$ 249.00 and is currently available in our community. "This has absolutely changed the way I do business," says Silverado resident Mary Schreiber. "I no longer have to sit down along the entrance to the canyon to conduct Blackberry activity, but can take care of my clients right from my own home."

The "Airave" from Sprint, priced at \$99.99 is also available to the 92676 according to their website. With Sprint AIRAVE™, a winner of the 2008 *PC World* 25 Most Innovative Products Award, you'll enjoy enhanced wireless service in your home or office — even if there is no coverage. It's like having your own miniature cell

## Firefighters' Easter Breakfasts Do Well

Both the Modjeska and Silverado Volunteer Firefighters had good turnouts for their pancake breakfasts. Modjeska reported serving over 500 meals while Silverado served about 625 breakfasts. The chilly weather did not seem to bother the hungry customers who enjoyed the good food, great canyon views and the relaxing ambiances of the Modjeska Fire Station and the Silverado Community Center. Both fire stations get a lot of support from members of their communities to help orchestrate their pancake breakfasts. The extra help is greatly appreciated. Thank You!



After being awarded a \$15,000 grant through Ameriquest Mortgage Company's Create Your Legacy Program back in 2006, the Silverado Children's Center recently celebrated a grand re-opening of the school-age backyard in March after using grant funds to upgrade the playground. The remaining funds awarded will go towards completing the 2nd phase of "Creating a Legacy" for the community by landscaping and repairing the Modjeska Community Center backyard.

The Silverado Children's Center Annual Chili Cook-Off at Irvine Lake is in it's 6th year and growing as one of the area's best family festivals. Chili tasting, live music, children's dancing and activities, vendors and exhibitors, are all enjoyed while enjoying beautiful scenery of Irvine Lake and helping to raise funds for the children's center.

The school year is almost over so be sure to sign your kids up for some awesome summer fun at the children's center. Along with regularly scheduled children's developmental activities for ages 2-12 at the center, there will be field trips for 6-12 year olds to all sorts of fun destinations throughout Orange County! Call Director Aimee Bryer at 714-649-2214 for more information or visit the website at [www.silveradochildrenscenter.com](http://www.silveradochildrenscenter.com).


## Garden Party

The beautiful gardens of Modjeska's own Bonnie Smith and Sarah & Geoffrey Sarkissian are part of the prestigious Mary Lou Heard Memorial Garden Tour scheduled on May 1st and 2nd from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

"Bonnie's Garden" begs to be relaxed in. The creek side setting is splendid and the garden has all the cottage favorites with an emphasis on Mediterranean drought tolerant plants with lots of color.

"The Sarkissian Garden", an acre paradise, features more than 100 species of California native plants as well as extensive flower, rose, vegetable, fruit, citrus, nut and other plantings.

Also on May 1, hoping to take advantage of the crowds, talented canyon artists will hold a Craft Faire at the community park across from the Smith's house.



# First Annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser Coming Soon!

Hosted By: The Inter-Canyon League

Date: September 2010 (final date to be determined)

Location: Silverado Center Restaurant Facility

Look for more information to be coming in our July publication.



ORANGE COUNTY  
**OC Waste & Recycling**  
Our Community. Our Commitment.

## ***OC Waste & Recycling is Hosting a Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event***

**When: Saturday May 1, 2010**

**Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Where: Calvary Chapel of the Canyons  
(8002 Silverado Canyon Road, Silverado)**

For your safety, please observe the following regulations  
in preparing for your visit to the collection event:

- A maximum of 15 gallons or 125 lbs. may be transported per vehicle, per trip (Department of Transportation Requirement). It is illegal to exceed these limits.
- Containers larger than 5 gallons will not be accepted
- Containers will NOT be returned, except oil containers, upon request.
- All containers must have lids, be sturdy, non-leaking, labeled and protected from breakage.
- Do not combine different types of waste.
- Do not mix oil-base paint with latex paint.
- Empty containers with lids removed can be discarded in trash.
- **No business waste accepted.**

Bring your household hazardous waste along with proof of Orange County residency (ID, utility bill). You don't need to get out of your car, we'll take it out for you. For more information on what to bring, please call OC Waste & Recycling at 714-834-4000 or visit [oclandfills.com](http://oclandfills.com).

## **2010 Canyon Cleansweep**

### Help Keep Our Community Fire Safe!!

June 5th & 6th  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Where: Aguinaga Green  
27910 Baker Canyon Road  
(at the end of Baker Canyon Road in Silverado)

- Cut vegetation accepted such as tree trimmings, weeds & brush.
- NO palm fronds
- NO hazardous materials
- NO lumber
- NO trash

The intent of this annual program is to provide a fire and flood safe environment in our canyon communities. By eliminating excess vegetation around your home, you are protecting yourself in two ways. First, materials that are removed from your property can't be washed into creeks by heavy rain, creating a flood problem. Second, you are creating a "defensible space" around your property, assisting fire authority personnel in protecting your home during a wildfire.

**Canyon Cleansweep** is brought to you courtesy of The Orange County Fire Authority, The Inter-Canyon League Fire Safe Council and Aguinaga Green.

For further information call:

George Ewan OCFA 714-573-6173  
Mary Schreiber (ICL-FSC) 714-649-2361  
Jim Fainer (ICL-FSC) 714-649-3333

## SILVERADO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR REDISTRICTING

*Submitted by Deborah Johnson*

To date, almost 400 Silverado, Modjeska, Williams and other canyon residents have signed a petition asking to be transferred from the Orange Unified School District to the Saddleback Valley School District. Required by the state to initiate the transfer process, the petition requests the transfer on three grounds:



- 1. Geographic distance.** The territory to be transferred is significantly closer to Saddleback Valley Unified (SVUSD) schools than it is to Orange Unified schools (OUSD). The nearest SVUSD elementary school is 2.5 miles from Modjeska Canyon compared to 11.5 miles for the nearest OUSD elementary school.
- 2. Children as young as kindergarten now ride the bus much more than three hours every day.** With the closure of Silverado Elementary School, our children have been forced to board buses as early as 6:30 a.m. to arrive in time for an 8:00 a.m. class.
- 3. Shared community interests.** One canyon community, Trabuco Canyon, already belongs to SVUSD. The hope is to create a K-8 school serving all canyon residents.

In public meetings and through emails, canyon residents have overwhelmingly favored the transfer. Once the county has verified that 25% of registered voters in the affected area have signed the petitions, the Orange County of Education will establish a committee to oversee the process. Unless OUSD agrees to the transfer, this could involve public hearings and a special election. The timetable for the transfer will depend upon how quickly the process is completed. When asked if students would be allowed to finish at their current school in OUSD, Superintendent Steve Fish said that is usually the case in a territory transfer.

### Fire Explorers Meet Weekly

The mission of the OCFA Fire Exploring program is to help you learn about fire service careers and develop leadership and life skills that will be useful in any career. Some explorers will go on to a career in firefighting or related profession, while others will use their training in safety and organization in completely unrelated fields. All take with them many skills as a result of their participation.

The local Explorer Post meets at the Modjeska Canyon Fire Station every Monday night from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Explorers must be 14 to 21 years old. There are currently 8 active persons in the post from Modjeska, Lake Forest and Rancho Santa Margarita. We have room for many more and welcome new interest. For more information, call Post Advisor Bruce Newell at Fire Station 16 at 714-649-2500. You're welcome to just show up on any Monday night. However, it's best to call first as we frequently meet at other locations.



For more information please visit the Orange County Fire Authority website at [www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org).

## AMERICAN RED CROSS GRANTS

The American Red Cross 2007 Southern California Wildfires Recovery, Planning, and Assistance Program has awarded the Inter-Canyon League three separate grants in the amount totaling over \$30,000.00. The American Red Cross received overwhelming financial support from the American public in response to the devastation caused by the 2007 Southern California wildfires. Through collaborative discussions between the various American Red Cross chapters in the affected areas, community groups, and government agencies, projects were developed in the areas of preparedness and mitigation to benefit the affected communities of the 2007 wildfires.

The ICL Fire Safe Council identified three particular needs of the canyons to would greatly enhance our disaster preparedness and response to disaster capabilities. The first grant awarded has allowed for the purchase of 100 CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) kits. In partnership with the Orange County Fire Authority, the Modjeska Canyon Fire Department provides six-week Canyon Emergency Preparedness Academics. Residents completing the course will be able to perform CPR, know how to perform basic home search and rescue operations, understand and know how to access the canyon emergency radio system, know how to make a home and family better prepared for emergencies, and how to help a community prepare for and deal with larger emergencies.

The most recent graduates received the first disbursement of these CERT kits on March 14, 2010. For further information regarding the CEPA classes please contact [brucenewell@ocfa.org](mailto:brucenewell@ocfa.org).



Gene Robinson with ICL Canyon Watch recently picked up 520 FRS (Family Service Radios) funded by the second part of this grant. These radios will allow canyon residents the ability to communicate with one another during disaster events. FRS radios are compact, quality transceivers, similar to walkie-talkies. These FRS 2-way radios will be a great way to keep in constant touch with neighbors offering the ability to talk, hear and ring other radios within a short range.

The third grant funded by the Red Cross Program is currently under procurement by Canyon Watch. Funding will allow the Inter-Canyon League to purchase communications equipment that will increase the canyon's communication abilities both with the canyons and with emergency personnel.

### **INTER-CANYON NEWS**

This newsletter is published as a community service by members of the ICL.

Editor: Deanna Craig  
Publishing & Design: Colleen Colgan  
Mailing: ICL committee members

We welcome your contributions to the newsletter.  
Please e-mail us at [inter-canyon-news@cox.net](mailto:inter-canyon-news@cox.net)

The Inter-Canyon League is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization.

# INTER-CANYON LEAGUE

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Visit us online at  
[www.intercanyon.org](http://www.intercanyon.org)

Non-profit  
U.S. Postage  
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Canyon Resident  
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Silverado, CA 92676

## Calendar of Regular Events

### INTER-CANYON LEAGUE

1st Tuesday, 7:00 PM  
Silverado Community Center

### FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

3rd Thursday, 7:00 PM  
Fire Station 14

### SMRPD BOARD

4th Tuesday, 7:00 PM  
Silverado Community Center

### BROWN BAGGERS

Twice monthly.  
Call Judy Myers to confirm  
location and time  
(714) 649-2786

## Calendar of Special Events

May 1	Hazardous Waste Collection Day
May 8	Silverado Summer Concert
May 15	Vaccination Pet Clinic - Silverado CC
June 5-6	Canyon clean sweep
June 5	Modjeska Summer Movie Night
June 12	Tree Huggers Ball - Baker Canyon
June 19	Silverado Summer Concert
June 19-20	Silverado Library Swapmeet
June 26	Modjeska Summer Sock Hop Dance Night
July 4	Silverado Parade & Picnic
July 4	Trabuco Parade & Picnic
July 4	Modjeska Parade, Picnic & Antique Car Show
July 10	Modjeska Summer Movie Night
July 17	Silverado Summer Concert
July 31	Modjeska Summer 60's Dance Night
Aug 14	Modjeska Summer Movie Night
Aug 14	Silverado Summer Concert
Aug 28	Modjeska Canyon Ho-Down Dance & Concert



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