

# THE RUTHERFORD Report

THE NEWSLETTER OF SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR JANICE RUTHERFORD

## Winter 2014



Snow Valley Mountain Resort in Running Springs is one of the oldest developed ski areas in Southern California. Today, the resort offers 12 chair lifts and more than 240 skiable acres.

The days are short  
The sun a spark  
Hung thin between  
The dark and dark.

—John Updike

“January,” *A Child’s Calendar*

## Longtime Ski Resort Continues to Grow

Snow Valley Mountain Resort in Running Springs is one of the oldest developed ski areas in Southern California. And while the family-owned resort has grown and evolved a lot over the decades, it continues to offer visitors a family friendly, small business atmosphere that keeps people coming back year after year.

It began back in 1924 when locals would go to a place they called Fish Camp, because of a popular fishing hole in the

area, to ski and ride toboggans. In the mid-1930s, Jack Northrop—who went on to found the aviation giant Northrop Corporation—designed and built what was probably the first sling lift in Southern California at Fish Camp, according to “Skiing in Southern California” by Ingrid P. Wicken.

The new lift was a huge improvement over the uncomfortable and difficult rope tows of the time. Skiers

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## Local Santa Helps Spread Christmas Magic



When Bill Priest moved to Lake Arrowhead with his wife, Carol, he was just another “mountain guy” with a beard.

All that changed in 2006 when two famous Hollywood designers organizing the “Home For the Holidays” event at the Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa gave Bill

a chance to play Santa Claus in the program and offered to make him the “Santa Claus of Lake Arrowhead.”

Bill grew out his white beard a little, put on the fuzzy red and white suit, and made the perfect Old Saint Nick, so

perfect in fact, that teachers at Lake Arrowhead Elementary School contacted Bill and asked if he could swing by the school to visit with the kids. Bill borrowed the Santa suit and delighted the youngsters with a visit.

“That is when I got hooked,” he said. “What got me were the kids.”

That year he bought his own Santa Claus suit so he could use it for whatever occasions came his way. And come they did.

First, Jerome “Punch” Ringhofer asked if Bill could play Santa as San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department volunteers delivered holiday meals and donated toys to

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# County Charter Modernization Talks Begin

The foreword to the 100-year-old Charter of the County of San Bernardino begins with these sage words from the Greek philosopher Aristotle: “Even when laws have been written down, they ought not always remain unchanged.”

Indeed, the County Charter has not remained unchanged; voters have approved more than 30 amendments to the governing document since its adoption in April 1913.

Yet, today, the Charter contains provisions that are no longer applicable or relevant to efficient County governance, and it fails to clearly define lines of authority or incorporate modern ethics provisions such as requirements for campaign finance rules. It’s time to take a comprehensive approach to modernizing this important document to ensure that it provides the clearest and most efficient roadmap to governing our great County in the decades to come.

In October, I held a public meeting at my Rancho Cucamonga office to discuss potential changes and additions to the County Charter. The meeting generated some interesting conversation about ways to bring the document into the 21st Century.

We discussed incorporating provisions to clearly define the roles of the Board of Supervisors and the appointed County Chief Executive Officer. This is necessary to ensure the Board’s authority to set policies and adopt the budget is unambiguous. In addition, the Charter could include language prohibiting Supervisors from interfering in the day-to-day operations of the County, such as telling Code Enforcement to go easy on a politically connected resident or directing County planners to approve a development project before it has been properly reviewed.

The group also talked about how to fill vacancies on the Board of Supervisors or in other elected County offices such as the Sheriff or Assessor. Under the current Charter, the Board of Supervisors must make these appointments or, if the Board cannot agree, the Governor makes the appointment for us. We considered several options including requiring special elections and giving the Board the option of calling a special election or appointing.

In addition, we discussed strengthening term limits for Supervisors, developing guidelines to redraw district boundaries (i.e. redistricting), and organizing regular reviews of the Charter to ensure it stays current.

San Bernardino County has changed significantly since its governing charter was adopted more than 100 years ago, and provisions such as the requirement for the Chair to physically be in an office during the workday and for Supervisors to set judges’ salaries are simply out of date. The Chair can be reached anywhere, anytime nowadays with this “new” device called a cellular phone, and the Board stopped setting judges salaries years ago.

Over the coming months, my Board colleagues plan to hold public discussions to generate ideas on how to best modernize the County Charter. I look forward to reviewing their proposals and to working with them to develop a comprehensive Charter reform package that can be presented to voters for their consideration.

In the meantime, I invite residents to send me their thoughts or suggestions for possible Charter measures or on any County issues. I can be reached at [SupervisorRutherford@sbcounty.gov](mailto:SupervisorRutherford@sbcounty.gov).

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needy families in the mountain communities. The Blue Jay Christmas Parade organizers invited him to join the lineup as Kris Kringle. They offered to pay; Bill did it for free.

Later on, he added Grand View and Valley of Enchantment elementary schools to his stops. He visits with kids, reads a story, listens to them perform holiday songs, and more. As one might expect, the older students are sometimes skeptical that this is the “real” Santa Claus, so they tug on his beard and ask him lots of questions.

“You really have to be on your toes with the kids,” Bill said.

Bill serves as Santa at the Lake Arrowhead Country Club’s Christmas party for children. The Club pays Bill by

donating to a charity of his choice. In addition, he and his wife dress up as Mr. and Mrs. Claus for an event Arrowhead Foster Family hosts with support from Mountain Sunrise Rotary Club for foster children and their families.

He even slips on the Santa suit in April when local contractors host Christmas in April, which puts volunteers to work fixing up the homes of needy families in the mountain communities. Bill said he enjoys sharing the magic of Christmas with young and old alike.

“I try to remind them of that first gift that was given and why we celebrate Christmas,” Bill said. “You can’t forget that first gift.”

# ARMC Burn Center Serves Inland Empire

The Edward G. Hirschman Burn Center at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton is the premier provider of comprehensive burn care in Inland Southern California.

The 14-bed burn unit serves a four-county area that includes the counties of San Bernardino, Riverside, Inyo and Mono. On average, about 400 people are admitted to the Burn Center annually, in addition to about 100 outpatient visits.

The hospital, which is owned and operated by the County of San Bernardino, opened the Burn Center in 1972 at the former San Bernardino County Medical Center located on Gilbert Street in San Bernardino. Today, the state-of-the-art Burn Center is located on the second floor of Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, which opened its doors in 1999.

Burn care has evolved significantly over the years thanks to advancements in medical technology such as biosynthetic dressings and skin grafting techniques as well as revised methods of managing burn victim's fluid resuscitation and pain management.

"There was a time when someone with burns greater than 30 percent total body surface area would not survive," Burn Center Nurse Manager Adrian Martinez said. "Now we have had patients with 90 percent plus of their body burned walk out of here after many, many months of care."

Time is of the essence when it comes to treating someone who has suffered significant burn injuries. Intensive treatment in the first 24 to 48 hours is critical to avoid amputations, massive shock, kidney failure or death.

Every year, the Burn Center offers advanced burn life support training for area nurses, physicians, physician assistants, and paramedics to ensure they can identify and treat serious burn injuries and know when patients need the specialty care provided at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

The Burn Center also has a Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program that focuses on educating children caught playing with fire about how devastating burn injuries can be. Children in this program learn about the consequences of playing with fire, and how dangerous burns can be, they may have the opportunity to visit other patients who have suffered serious burn injuries.

"They smell, they see, they get a little woozy, and they learn," Martinez said.

The Fire and Burn Foundation in collaboration with the Burn Center hosts Camp Beyond the Scars twice a year for children ages 5 to 17 who have suffered serious burns. Many volunteers, including firefighters and others who have also suffered burn injuries, assist the camp.

The Fire and Burn Foundation, which is supported by numerous local businesses, firefighter organizations and other groups, raises money to support the camps. The nonprofit also helps fund research and equipment for the Burn Center, and it provides support for patients, including helping victims' families pay for hotel stays during their loved ones' long recovery.

Visit [www.arrowheadmedcenter.org](http://www.arrowheadmedcenter.org) to learn more about the Burn Center and the other innovative and specialized medical services provided by the County hospital.

## 2nd District Trivia

**Last Issue's Answer:** George D. Haven started the grape-growing co-op called the Cucamonga Vintage Company in 1909.

**Question:** In the early 1900s, cities in western San Bernardino County and eastern Los Angeles County proposed forming a new county. What did they want to call the new county?

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using the sling lift grabbed onto a triangular bar, leaned back and were hoisted up the mountain.

A San Bernardino National Forest Service Ranger named Les Salm, who went on to serve as Lake Arrowhead's first fire chief, started calling the area Snow Valley because of all the skiers and toboggan riders it attracted, according to "Lost Ski Areas of Southern California" by Ingrid P. Wicken. In 1937, Sverre Engen, who operated the ski area, petitioned the Forest Service to officially rename the area Snow Valley.

A year later the Arrowhead Springs Corporation purchased the ski area and began developing it to cater to the growing number of visitors.

In 1941, Famous ski jumper John Elvrum purchased the area for \$5,000 and a Model-T Ford after the Arrowhead Springs Corporation went bankrupt. He officially renamed the business Snow Valley.

Over the next two decades, the resort continued to grow, adding a chair lift in 1949 and a double chair lift in 1960. It also developed one of the largest snowmaking systems of the time.

W.R. Sauey and a group of friends purchased the resort in the early 1970s. Sauey—now in his 80's—remains the sole owner of the resort.

Over the course of one summer, the resort added five chair lifts, and in the mid-1990s, Snow Valley developed one of the most comprehensive snowboard parks and invested \$1.5 million into a snowmaking system.

Over the years, Snow Valley has invested many millions into making a fantastic winter resort experience for its guests and \$1 million has been invested in improvements for the 2013-2014 season.

Today, the resort features 12 chair lifts and about 240 acres of skiable terrain. Snow Valley prides itself on having some of the gentlest slopes and best instructors for those learning to ski or snowboard. Snow Valley also offers some of the steepest terrain in the region on its second mountain, Slide Peak.

"We are very much a small business," General Manager Kevin Somes said. "And we are in the business of making sure people have a good time."

Visit [www.snow-valley.com](http://www.snow-valley.com) for more information about Snow Valley Mountain Resort.

## Upcoming Events

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|-------------|---|
| January 2   | Signups begins for the City of Upland's annual Biggest Loser Challenge. This event pits individuals and teams against each other in a race to lose the most weight and get fit. Call the Recreation Division at (909) 931-4280 for information.   |
| January 6   | The Crestline Library hosts the knitting and crocheting group "Threads" on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. All are invited to join.  |
| January 11  | The Archibald Library in Rancho Cucamonga offers Family Storytime at 11 a.m. on Saturdays. This event is geared for children ages 2 to 8. Seating is limited, so parents are encouraged to arrive early. Call the Children's Desk at (909) 477-2720 ext. 5025 for more information about this and other children's programs at the library. |
| January 30  | The City of Fontana and the Fontana Chamber of Commerce will host "The State of the City" at 8:30 a.m. and at 12:30 p.m. at the Jessie Turner Center. Call (909) 822-4433 for more information.   |
| February 1  | The annual PolaRotary Bear Plunge will take place at 10 a.m. at the Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa. Come take a dip in the lake to raise money for local charities or just stop by to watch the action. Call Pat Rains at (909) 337-4541 for information on how to participate.  |
| February 1  | The Biane Library in Rancho Cucamonga offers a free computer class at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month. Call the library's Technology Center at (909) 477-2720 ext. 5071 for information about this and other technology programs at the library.   |
| February 22 | The City of Fontana will host the Art'n Jazz Celebration from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Lewis Library and Technology Center. Call (909) 349-6984 for more information.   |
| March 15    | The City of Fontana will host a Teen Summit on bullying from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Jack Bulik Teen Center. Call (909) 349-6984 for more information.   |

Dates and times are subject to change without notice. Please contact Supervisor Rutherford's office at (909) 387-4833 if you have any questions or suggestions for the Events Calendar. You can view information about more local events on Supervisor Rutherford's home page at [www.sbcounty.gov/rutherford](http://www.sbcounty.gov/rutherford).