



Then — Crafton Hills College in 1972



Now — Crafton Hills College in 2010

Crafton Hills College history at Open Space's annual meeting

By RACHAEL M. GUSTUSON
Staff Reporter

Crafton Hills Open Space Conservancy Chairman Dave Miller welcomed guests and members to its annual meeting on Feb. 8 at the CHC Aquatics Center classroom.

"We started 20 years ago to protect the Crafton Hills area, over 4,000 acres and 80 to 90 percent is protected," said Miller. "Also the Crafton Hills reservoir, which will begin at the end of this year and the trail access, will be maintained. They purchased 34 acres from us." Miller also summarized the many involvements the Conservancy is involved with Make A Difference Day, Blue Jean Sunday, hosting five hikes in the spring and five in the fall along with other various events and projects.

CHC History

Miller introduced CHC Interim Vice President of Administrative Services Mike Strong, who provided a PowerPoint presentation about the history of the college.

"As early as 1947, San Bernardino Community College District made a decision to expand," said Strong. "In 1961 it started to search for land (for the new community college) and in 1963 a State Legislative bill required every unified or independent high school to become part of a junior college district. In 1965 Redlands and Yucaipa voters approved San Bernardino Community College District and the new college."

Strong showed aerial shots of the Sand Canyon Road area. He said it was the Finklestein



Then — CHC Administration Building in 1972

brothers, Lester and Reuben, who ultimately made the site a reality. The brothers were real estate investors and cattle ranchers and gifted the 163 acres. That initial gift of 163 acres eventually increased to 523 acres. In 1966 the board accepted the deed and construction for CHC began in the late 1960s. Strong showed old construction photos and said that in 1978 a second and third story was added to the library, which is now closed.

"On Sept. 11, 1972, Crafton Hills College opened its classrooms," continued Strong. "Since then, more than 200,000 learners have passed through its doors."

"In 2002 the voters passed measure P, which gave some money to Crafton Hills College," added Strong. "The infrastructure is old. The Learning Resource Center was a result of Measure P. It is our vision to

increase services that we provide to students. Measure M also gave millions to Crafton."

Strong showed photographs of the new Aquatics Center and Pool during construction phases. He also said there will be new lighting improvements and parking structure.

He ended with, "It's very exciting to be a part of Crafton Hills College campus, where there are bobcats, coyote, deer, foxes, raccoon, red tailed hawks and quail. We're still very much a part of the hills and it's a great thing that the Conservancy does."

Special guest

Supervisor Neil Derry

The final speaker of the meeting was San Bernardino County Supervisor Neil Derry.

"I want my son to see things the way they've always been," said Derry. "And ways to expe-



Now — Current day

rience nature. It's important to have these kinds of resources and experiences. The county is currently working on the Santa Ana River Trail. This will provide bicycling to Orange County, quality of life and retail opportunities."

Derry said he thought the expansion trail is good for the county especially providing areas for bike riders but also for joggers and hikers.

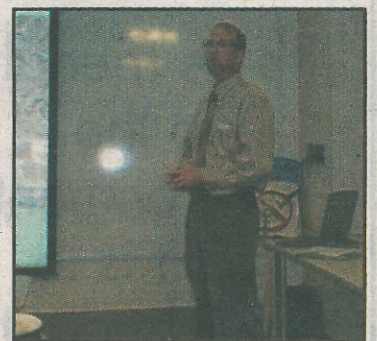
The Santa Ana River Trail is mostly funded through grants.

Derry also took questions from the audience about how the county is doing. He stated the county budget has a cumulative 135 million dollar deficit.

He ended with "It is a pleasure to be here and thank you for the continued work."



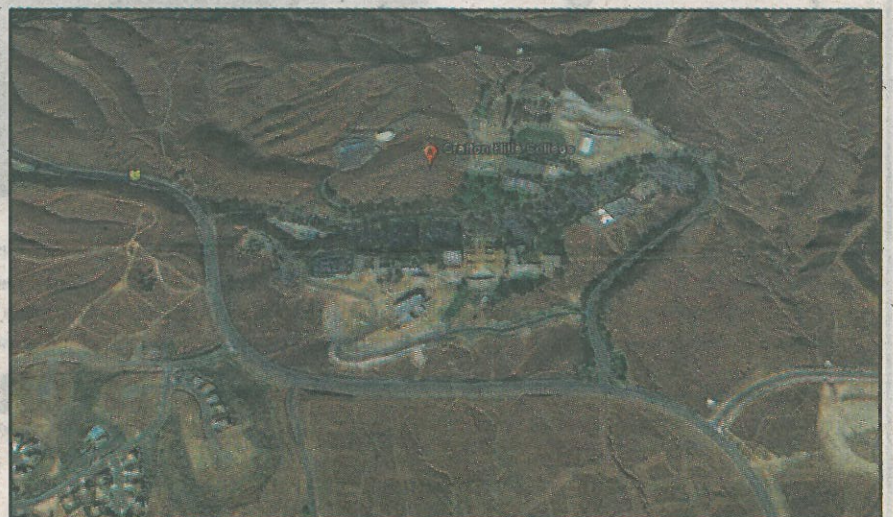
Supervisor Neil Derry greets the audience.



Mike Strong gives his presentation.



Then — Aerial view of Crafton Hills College and Yucaipa Boulevard.



Now — Aerial view with Sand Canyon going through to Redlands