



HOMESTEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL



One Voice for the People of Homestead Valley

- Next Meetings**
- **Monday March 21**
at **Yucca Mesa**
 - **Monday April 18**
at **Johnson Valley**

Homestead Valley Loses Phyllis Burns



Homestead Valley Community Council delegate Phyllis Burns passed away unexpectedly on December 27th.

Phyllis served on the board of the Flamingo Heights Community Association, and as HVCC delegate since moving to the area in 2003. Her commitment to Homestead Valley didn't stop there, as she served on the Homestead Valley Community Plan Committee to San Bernardino County in 2007. Phyllis also helped organize meetings for area residents to participate in Hwy 247 zoning and improvement decisions.

Phyllis was a volunteer at the White Rock Horse Rescue Ranch. She also volunteered at the Yucca Valley Senior Center, and even found time to serve as a Kitchen Angel at the Rainbow Inn Lodge in Landers. Phyllis's commitment and dedication to improving Homestead Valley was unsurpassed. We mourn her loss and will miss her dearly.

SCENIC COMMITTEE

Hwy 247 travels through landscapes almost unchanged in 100 years; through areas of historical, geologic and biologic interest, a remnant of early California that needs to be recognized for what it is.

The HVCC project to have Hwy 247 designated as a Scenic Highway is really starting to roll. The Council voted at the January 2011 meeting to set up a committee specifically to pursue this purpose.

The committee (called SC247 for short) is chaired by Barbara Harris of the Morongo Basin Historical Society. Its membership at present includes Phillip Brown of MBHS, Jim Harvey and Betty Munson of HVCC and Joanna Wright of the Johnson Valley Improvement Association. Anyone interested in helping is welcome to join the group.

At its first meeting, SC247 determined to concentrate on gaining recognition as a Scenic Highway, and utilizing the historical research that has been done to use in publicity about destinations and points of interest along the route.

Hwy 247 is already a county Scenic Byway and eligible for state Scenic Highway status. Federal designation is being considered, too, but contacts have to be made with the relevant officials at every level.

Interest has already been expressed by museums in Barstow, where 247 terminates at Route 66. SC247 wants to sign up as many supporters as possible along the highway. Organizations and businesses who stand to benefit by the increase in tourism need to be approached to lend their names to the project, for use in presentations in the future...lots to do.



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