

Agua Dulce Living

ISSUE 1

• ESTABLISHED 2005 TO KEEP YOU INFORMED •

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My name is Marilyn Garner and as a nine year resident of Agua Dulce, I know our little town isn't for everybody. But for those of us who enjoy quiet, wide open spaces, privacy, clean air, no traffic, a low crime rate and cool evenings (where you can actually see how bright the stars are at night!) Agua Dulce living is perfect.

With a population of less than 5000 people, Agua Dulce is indeed a small town. While working at the Vineyard I have often been asked "What do you do here?!....." Well, pretty much the same things you do where you live, we work, play, raise our families, visit with friends and lie on the couch and watch TV (may I say, TIVO is life changing). While we don't have loud dance clubs, museums, a Playhouse or a Movie Theater our town is not without art, entertainment or culture.

Maria Bonita's, our local Mexican Restaurant is packed on Friday nights and it could take you up to 15 minutes just to reach your seat. You feel compelled to stop and visit with the familiar faces at each table you pass. Through out dinner you'll notice people moving from one table to another and catching up on the week's latest gossip.

Dinner at The Sweetwater Café is more like dinner at friends. The restaurant is small, intimate and



warm and the food is great. It's the kind of place where, before the night is over, you'll end up joining another couple or group and after a leisurely dinner and conversation you'll be shocked to discover it's after 9:30 (aka Agua Dulce midnight).

We have a beautiful market, Sweetwater Farms. It reminds me of a baby Gelson's. They have a great deli, Harris Ranch meats, coffee bar, ice cream counter, and all the other quality groceries you need. A trip to the market also takes longer than expected as you'll end up shootin' the breeze with Big Al, his son Danny or some of the other local "good ol' boys" who have made the market their own personal Club House.

Big Al (aka Santa Claus) sometimes sells small pepper trees or other more bizarre items out of the back of his old yellow pick-up truck. Danny is an amazing artist, mostly wood carvings, and you'll often find him at the coffee bar whittling on his latest creation.

You wouldn't believe what he did to the pumpkins for Halloween!

Speaking of Halloween, only in a small town would you find two grown men in a heated competition over who can grow the biggest pumpkin. They even sneak into each others pumpkin patch just to gauge the competition. There's no real prize for the largest pumpkin just the satisfaction of winning and the admiration and awe of the kids. Sorry George, but it looks like Dick won again this year.

The pumpkins are sold for \$10.00 each out of an old wooden wagon next to our absolutely stunning gift & antique store, Bullwinkel's. And all proceeds are donated to our local Acton & Agua Dulce School system.

Oh, and culture? I don't mean to brag, but every Wednesday, rain or shine, the Santa Clarita Valley Book Mobile van is parked in the Sweetwater Farms parking lot. Yes, we have a mobile library just for the convenience of the town's people, no need for us to drive the 10 plus miles to the big city library in Canyon Country.

These are just a few of the people, places, and things that I love about my town. I hope you'll enjoy my newsletter and that Agua Dulce living is in your future!

Marilyn Garner



Agua Dulce Vineyards

Big news at the Vineyard, the new 10,000 sq foot wine processing building is finally up. Filled with over 1,000 French, Hungarian and American oak barrels, state of the art stainless steel fermentation tanks and wine making equipment, the new building is very impressive! We are all excited about the harvest this year which is expected to yield between 250 and 275 tons of delicious grapes in six different varieties. To celebrate the harvest and the opening of the new building, the Vineyard is hosting wine-tasting Jamborees for its wine club members.

If you're interested in learning more about the mysteries of fine wine the Vineyard also offers a weekly educational food and wine pairing class run by co-founder, Cathy MacAdam. The vineyards own fabulous French Chef, Gerard Plazat, plans the menu and great care goes into pairing just the right wine with each delicacy he has personally created. Speaking of Gerard, he just recently sold his house in Chatsworth and is now living here in Agua Dulce.

Give the Vineyard a call at 661 268-7402 for more information. And feel free to drop by and visit me for a wine tasting on Sunday afternoons between 1:00 – 5:00 pm.

Agua Dulce Airport

The Airport is located in a beautiful little valley surrounded by hills in the middle of Agua Dulce. It's one of my favorite places to walk my dog, Riley.

The Airport was originally built back in the 1950s and generally used by local pilots, who hangar their planes there, out of the area pilots flying in for the "\$100.00 Hamburger" or film crews shooting movies or TV shows.

The airport was also a huge help to the community after the Northridge earthquake when the freeway was closed and there was no easy way to get into the valley.

The airport recently changed hands and the new owners are local long time residents Wayne and Connie Spears. Their plan for the airport, now called L70 Airport, is to make it more pilot oriented.



The airport is closed to the general public during the week, but pilots are welcome to fly in. There's a very comfortable pilot's lounge with a big screen TV and pool table and there's some one in the office to assist you everyday from 8:00 to 5:00.

There is no food service during the week but on the weekends they have a bar-b-q going from 11:00 to 4:00pm and the general public is welcome. The airport grounds are lovely and the outdoor bar-b-q area is surrounded by lush grass with tables and chairs scattered about so you can sit and enjoy watching the small planes landing or taking off.

Hanging out at the airport is a wonderful way to idle away an afternoon and enjoy a little Agua Dulce Living and the kids will love it. If you have any questions or need more information you can reach the L70 Airport direct at 661-268-8835.



Vasquez Rocks Park

Long a favorite location for movie filming, rock climbing, hiking, horseback riding, picnicking and other recreational activities, Vasquez Rocks has a rich and dramatic history.

This geological phenomenon is a natural sculpture formed by 20 to 25 million years of earthquake activity and erosion that stripped the soil from beds of coarse grained sandstone, shale, and basalt. Born of the Elkhorn Fault, the ancient rock layers have been tempered, folded, tilted and thrust skyward – some as high as 150 feet from the canyon floor.

Now under the protection of the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, the 902 acre park represents the unique qualities of Agua Dulce.

Local Real Estate

There is an interesting mix of properties available here in Agua Dulce, anything from a Mobil home for \$262,000 to a mansion on 2 acres for \$3,850,000. I know some people think we all live in trailers and date our cousins, so it might interest you to know that there are currently 44 homes on the market and over half of them are priced at over one million dollars.

	<i>Acton</i>	<i>Agua Dulce</i>	<i>Canyon Country</i>
<i>Active Listings</i>	43	36	173
<i>Avg list price</i>	791.1	1072.8	838.1
<i>Avg days on market</i>	49	44	52

Source: Realtor® Report, October 11, 2005

