



Conejo Recreation & Park District

GENERAL MANAGER
Jim Friedl

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Nellie Cusworth, Chair
Susan L. Holt, Vice Chair
George M. Lange, Director
Chuck Huffer, Director
Doug Nickles, Director

GENERAL MANAGER EMERITUS
Tex Ward

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Tom Hare
Administrator, Parks and Planning
(805) 495-6471

After 40 years of ownership, the Conejo Recreation and Park District recently closed escrow on the District's sale of the Farland House. After declaring the property surplus in February of this year, the District used the services of Raymi Schwartz of Pinnacle Estate Properties, Inc. to sell the property to Phil and Judy Gottstein for \$690,000.

The Farland House, located at 1603 East Hillcrest Drive near Colina Middle School, was gifted to the Park District in 1979 by Donna Fargo. As a District property, the Farland Property housed various outside renters and since 2007, District staff.

"The Conejo Recreation and Park District is eternally grateful to Donna Fargo and her benevolence, not only to the District, but to the community," stated Board Chair, Nellie Cusworth. Donna Fargo was born in Chicago but grew up in southern California. She had a long history of involvement with the Hollywood film industry as a stuntwoman because of her expert horsemanship and athleticism. Most notably, she drove the horse and wagon through the burning of Atlanta scene and fell down the stairs for Scarlett in *Gone with the Wind*.

Through close friends and actors Joel McCrea and Ward Bond, Donna discovered the Conejo Valley in the 1930s. During World War II, she moved to New York and met her partner, Lois Landon. In 1956, they moved to the Conejo Valley and were involved in real estate and formed Farland (short for Fargo-Landon) Enterprises, a publishing business.

As an early Conejo Valley resident, Donna became deeply involved in the community, including the building of Conejo Community Center, the preservation of the Stagecoach Inn, the formation of the City of Thousand Oaks, and Conejo Valley Days events. She always supported anything that would promote a better way of life. Donna and Lois also had a love for the Conejo Recreation and Park District and in November 1979, Donna gifted the Farland House/Property to the District.

"The Farland House provided a long-lasting benefit to the District," continued Chair Cusworth, "we intend to use the proceeds from the sale of the property to further the mission of the District and honor the legacy of Donna Fargo for future generations."

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

403 West Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360-4223
805-495-6471 | Fax: 805-497-3199 | parks@crpd.org | www.crpd.org