

Hayward Road Islands Seem Largely Deserted

By Jerry Gagnon
Staff Writer

Picture postcard quality they're not: Hayward's islands—otherwise known as road medians or dividers—are in need of help.

Many of them are sparsely landscaped, with dead or missing plants, litter and the occasional hubcap. Others lack irrigation, according to the city's website.

While the city has well maintained, landscaped medians from the I-580 exit to Jackson Street and on other major arteries, the stretch of Mission Boulevard from Jackson to beyond Tennyson Road is a mixed bag.

The problem is especially obvious near the Hayward Plunge—one of the city's prized landmarks—in front of the Holy Sepulcher Cemetery and just past the intersection of Tennyson Road and Mission Boulevard, where gravel and debris that appears to be from a closed quarry add to the visual mess.

"It just looks so tacky at the southern end of Mission Boulevard with all that concrete and very little landscaping," said long-time Hayward resident Joan Weber. "Every so often there's a hole for a plant, but the few plants that have survived are straggly-looking."

"I think if the city is aware that people are concerned about this, something can be done," she said. "What we may need is a committee for medians on Mission."

"You go to communities like Fremont or Pleasanton and you don't usually see this. It's too bad, because Hayward is such a linear city. People who are driving through and never get off Mission Boulevard get an unfavorable impression based on these kinds of things."

The unsightly medians are inconsistent with efforts to improve Hayward's image for last several years: a new City Hall, new sidewalks and landscaping in the historic downtown core.

The medians on Mission Boulevard in South Hayward—one of the city's most prominent and heavily traveled arteries—have been neglected for years.

By contrast, the upper length of the Harder Road entrance to Cal State East Bay has undergone a "green" transformation recently with drought-tolerant

plants accented with river rock. Meanwhile, parts of mid-level and lower medians on hilly Harder Road and on Carlos Bee Boulevard are weedy or sparsely landscaped.

The neglected patches are not part of the campus but are under the jurisdiction of Caltrans and the City of Hayward, said Barbara Haber, associate vice-president for facilities planning and operations at the university.

"Facilities is working together with the city and Caltrans to see what can be done, and we're working very cooperatively with them," Haber said. She said the hope is that recent landscaping upgrades on campus will serve as a "catalyst" for improvements in areas nearby the campus.

As part of the now defunct Foothill Freeway proposal, Caltrans acquired a swath of properties in the 1960s and 1970s that run parallel to Foothill Boulevard at Hayward's northern boundary and along Mission Boulevard to South Hayward. A section of the land, including a boarded-up house on Carlos Bee Boulevard, runs just below CSUEB.

In November, Caltrans announced plans to sell off hundreds of properties it owns throughout the state, including 300-plus acres in Hayward. But, according to a June 19 report by Matt O'Brien of the Oakland Tribune, it's unlikely the sale will proceed until a Caltrans-sponsored land use and traffic study—dubbed the "Central County Freeway Operational Analysis"—is completed in 2008.

Hayward Mayor Michael Sweeney said in a telephone conversation that, "Mission Boulevard is a state route, so the medians are basically under the control of Cal Trans. But, obviously, we want to work with them when something needs to be done."

Although the budget for medians is "pretty basic," he said, "We're trying to work closely with community groups to maintain the medians when capital has been allocated."

One group, Keep Hayward Clean and Green, is currently working with citizens and local businesses to try to do a better job. Sweeney said, adding that he's still doing more research on the subject to see what else can be done.



Photo/ Bill Wallace

Cal State East Bay Programs Aid Foster Youth

By Traci Noffsinger
Staff Writer

For former foster youth who are moving into the world of higher education, Cal State East



Kevin Bristow

Photo/ Barry Zepel

Bay offers housing, grants and education.

Last November, CSUEB began the Renaissance Scholars Program, a project that assists former foster youth who are either currently enrolled in a postsecondary educational program or who want to enroll.

The coordinator, Kevin Bristow, is a former foster youth student himself and works directly with each student attending CSUEB.

"I act as a liaison for each student when they need to talk to a staff member and I also help the staff understand the students and what they need," Bristow said.

Each foster youth must meet criteria in order to become a student on campus. They have to be 17-23 years old and have a 2.2 grade point average if entering from high school or a 2.5 GPA if entering from a community college. In addition, they must enroll in three academic quarters a year and take at least 12 units each quarter.

The students are entirely grant- and donation-funded and receive no money from the state or the

university. They are provided year-round housing at Pioneer Heights and receive all the university's EOP services as well.

"There is a mentoring component involved, where a old student meets with a new student and shows them around campus," Bristow said.

Along with the counselors provided by EOP, each student also gets counseling services from the student health center. While regular students receive 10 counseling sessions free, foster youth students receive an extra 10.

Each year, 10 new students will be accepted into the Renaissance program. Along with CSUEB, 17 other CSU's and UC's have programs

that help former foster youth.

At the age of 18, foster youth are emancipated from the families they were staying with and sent on their own. With the help of the Renaissance Scholars Program, CSUEB's International House has paired with the Alameda County's social service agency to help prepare youth for college over the summer.

Unlike the Renaissance program, the summer program is for youth who will become students elsewhere. "Some of the students will be enrolling at Chabot, others at other community colleges," said Terry Jones, professor of sociology.

CSUEB Makes Top Tier Picks

California State University, East Bay has been selected by both U.S. News & World Report Magazine and the publication Princeton Review as a "Best in the West" college for 2008.

It is the fourth year in a row that CSUEB has been chosen by Princeton Review, and the first time CSUEB has been chosen by U.S. News & World Report.

Both publications rank schools according to a review of surveys done by students at their respective colleges.

Campus 50th Anniversary Exhibit Opens Next Month

Exhibit, from page one.

According to the project's proposal, the exhibit is designed to depict the changing role of the university library from "a locally-held print collection" to "an information gateway to multi-media digital resources."

A new archival website, designed by Apple and still "a work in progress," is now accessible by the public. It provides online access to a wealth of documents and images, and will eventually include many of those photos uncovered in the storeroom recently (www.library@csueastbay.edu).

The long lost photos were once part of a multi-media presentation that was shown at a dinner celebrating the university's quarter-century mark. After the event, the photos were stored in the old Instructional Media Center but, after a fire there, they were shuttled to a storeroom in Meiklejohn Hall. Apple and now-retired IMC director John McCue located the photos just days before they were slated for disposal.

"These new-found materials will have a safe haven in archives and will be catalogued as time and staffing allow. We want to share as many unique items as we can on the archives over the coming years," Apple said.

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03 Wellness Through Leisure Sep 29, Oct 6, 13, 27, Nov 3. Saturdays Yates

04-09 Wellness Through Leisure Totally Online

Rec 3202 03, 04, 90 Women in Leisure - Online (Course also meets Women's and Cultural Requirement)

General Education Area C4

Rec 3000 01,02,03, Philosophy of Leisure Fully Online

General Education Area/F

Rec 3010 Service Learning Section 02, (100 hours volunteer working with transition age Foster youths) and Online Discussion, Supervision and Assignments

Rec 3010 Service Learning Section 01(100 hours volunteer or work service to organizations of your choice and Online Discussion, Supervision and Assignments) Zeiger

Rec 2500 Fieldwork 01 (100 hours volunteer/work service to organizations of your choice and Online Discussion, Supervision and Assignments) Take 2500 if a freshman or sophomore

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