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The Montclair

EDITORIAL

The proper focus — and the proper form

MEMBERS OF the Shepherd Canyon Homeowners' Association, councilwoman Jean Quan's office and concerned residents deserve a hearty thank you for their work to improve the use and care of Shepherd Canyon Park. Last Saturday's forum, the first of two, was a great step in that direction.

Residents raised important safety concerns, as well as other practical issues related to strengthening access to the park and the use of trails. That type of discussion is both productive and needed.

Cars in the area speed by, and along with the curves and dips in the roadway, the entrance to the park can get congested, adding to the danger that someone on foot or on bike might get hit by a moving vehicle.

Like many of the parks and open space areas in the hills, Shepherd Canyon Park and Open Space is a tremendous resource. Finding ways to augment its use and to protect it are worthy goals and warrant hills residents' support and cooperation.

We also hope the Shepherd Canyon public forum can serve as a working example of what can be accomplished by gathering residents and devoting some care and attention to issues that matter to our community.

In contrast, the issue of how to best care and spruce up the Antioch Court area of Montclair has produced some mixed feelings, as well as down-right animosity.

We ask Montclair residents and merchants to look at the Shepherd Canyon forums as a model of public dialogue, civility and collaboration. While working together isn't always easy, it certainly is the best way to produce lasting results.

The next workshop on Shepherd Canyon Park will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, at Montera Middle School, 5555 Ascot Dr. For more details, call 510-531-5959 or see www.shepherdcanon.org.

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