

June 2005

## Letter from the President

What does BVNA mean to you?

While this question may seem relatively simple on the surface, it is a question that means many different things to different people. To one, Loui Tucker, it means a clean neighborhood. She has taken this to heart and she can be seen walking the neighborhood picking up trash left behind by those who don't share her views. She has even adopted a local freeway in her campaign against litter. To Brian Ward, it means having a neighborhood where we can walk to various locations safely. Brian recently pushed for the reinstallation of the crosswalk in front of the new Starbucks (the cross walk was

removed by the City several years ago). Because of his conviction and dedication, our neighborhood now has safe access to cross W. San Carlos. Other neighbors may enjoy a quiet neighborhood, a tree-lined street, better pedestrian lighting, more parks, or perhaps a neighborhood get together.

The point I am trying to make is that if each one of us concentrates on what we think improves our neighborhood, and take ownership of that idea or task, then by definition, isn't that what makes a neighborhood great?

*Joe Carpenter, BVNA President*

## BVNA Hispanic Participation Low

Although the majority of people who live within the Buena Vista Area are Hispanic, there is little representation or participation in the membership of BVNA. "The cultural and language barriers are difficult to surmount," said BVNA Vice President Robert Solis. "Many of our Hispanic residents are focused on financial survival and supporting their family's welfare rather than being involved in community volunteerism. It especially does not help that most of the membership does not speak Spanish." The BVNA has been trying to recruit bilingual members for some time now and hopes to produce more bilingual materials in the future. "Since we are a volunteer organization, we have limited resources. Most of the time, we are lucky if we can produce materials in English much less Spanish. This article was supposed to be translated into Spanish but we never quite got that done. We hope as we gain more bilingual members, we can begin a more aggressive outreach to our Hispanic residents so that their voice may be heard with ours."

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### BVNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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	<i>Sally Henning</i>
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	<i>Loree Stevens</i>

# We're Doing Something About Litter!

by Loui Tucker

Sabine and I became the Litter Committee for the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association last fall and this article is a report on some of our activities.

First, you may have noticed some new trash cans on Buena Vista, Scott, and Willard. How did that come about?

Sabine and I had been picking up litter in our neighborhood for some time whenever we took our dog for a walk, and we began to see a pattern. We noticed that we have very loooooong streets in our area, and lots of people who walk - to the Jack-in-the-Box and the bus stop, to school, to the shops on San Carlos, to the Safeway and Walgreens, to the park on Scott and Menker. We also have vendors who walk around our neighborhood selling ice cream and other food. Although the vendors all have bags for the used wrappers, the people who buy from them often keep the wrapper until they are done eating what they've bought. And the only trash receptacles we have are one per block on San Carlos and at the park!

Our theory was that, if there were trash cans available, people would use them. Once the litter starts, people think, "Oh, well, what's one more bit of litter. I'll just drop my trash here too!" We thought that if garbage cans were available, they would be used and we could stop the build-up before it started.

We purchased the cans at Orchard, along with chains and locks and a supply of plastic bags. We placed

them where we thought they'd do the most good - and we've noticed a big difference! There has been a decrease in litter in our gutters, on the sidewalks and in the bushes. Sure, we still have some bad spots, but overall, the neighborhood looks better.

We try to get by to empty the cans each weekend and put in new plastic liners. Every time we empty the



Photo by Loui Tucker

cans we look at all the garbage that DIDN'T get tossed on the ground in the neighborhood, and that makes it all worthwhile! Plus, we've gotten some nice thank yous from neighbors.

If you'd like a trash can on your street, call the BVNA, send us an email (see below), or come to a neighborhood meeting and let someone know. We'll see that you get one!

Second, Sabine and I have officially adopted the section of freeway to the south of our Buena Vista / Burbank Neighborhood - the north side of 280 between Meridian and Saratoga. We made a five-year

commitment to keep that section clean and we're allowed to go out on the freeway 12 times a year to do the clean-up work.

In addition to keeping our section of Highway 280 clean, we recently took on a special task, with the help of Cal-Trans, to clean up a particularly bad patch of Highway 880 north of Hamilton. Eight volunteers cleaned seven tenths of a mile of that trash-filled stretch of freeway. Seven tenths of a mile might not seem like much but it is actually over 12 football fields in length! Cal-Trans provided two trucks to act as crash barriers and another truck to haul away the trash as we filled bag after bag after bag with litter. See the photos at [www.louitucker.com/TrashathonPhotos.htm](http://www.louitucker.com/TrashathonPhotos.htm)

If you would like to join a clean-up crew, get in touch by phone or email (see below).

Let us know you're interested in working with us on Highway 280 or Highway 880. I'll let you know the date of the next Trashathon.

Author phone: 408-287-9999

Author email: [loui@louitucker.com](mailto:loui@louitucker.com)

# 2005 Historic Home Tour & Jamboree

by Robert Solis



In the middle of a restoration

## BVNA Home & Garden Tour

When you think of Historic Homes, do you think of grand multi-level estates with sweeping staircases and stained glass windows designed by some world-renowned architect? I don't. I think about my house and houses throughout the Buena Vista Area. Just after the turn of the century, most people were getting away from the larger Victorian dwellings and moving into small utilitarian "bungalows." These homes served the working class of Santa Clara County and have a simple elegance. They had two or three bedrooms and only one bathroom.

I like to imagine how these houses were presented to the public when they were new. "The most modern and affordable houses on the market today," I imagine a salesman saying. "Only steps away from public transportation (in 1905 the Inter Urban Railway ran down San Carlos Street). These little handmade beauties have wood-paneled dining rooms with plate rails to display your family heirlooms. The kitchens are state-of-the-art with useful features like Hoosier helpers, California Coolers, and the cutting boards and cabinets all come built in."



Reflecting various periods in history

The Home tour will not only show examples like our imaginary salesman described (there are five on the tour) but also a dwelling that at one time served as a home for some of the workers at one of the area's canneries. A true home of the working class, this house includes a 1933 GE Monitor Top refrigerator that has never broken down.

We have plans to place Model T or other vintage automobiles at each of the houses so you can not only see what people were living in but also what they were driving.



An example of a cannery worker house

As a bonus, we will be having presentations about the history of the area and Arts & Crafts furnishing as well as panel discussions about home restoration. The day will end with a talk by bungalow restoration author Jane Powell. Some of her books will be available for purchase after the talk.

## Burbank Jamboree

The Jamboree will have kids activities and various antique vendors as well as an appraiser to tell you whether that 200-year-old jade Buddha is actually made of plastic. The BVNA booth will again feature its display of local amateur artists. The artwork will be for display only (not for sale) and anyone from the area can submit his or her work. If you have artwork to contribute please call (408) 295-9342.

Tickets are \$10 each and \$15 for couples. You will be able to purchase tickets at the BVNA booth during the Burbank Jamboree at the corner of Shasta Ave. and San Carlos St. For more information call: (408) 295-9137.

# The Big Picture

## What is going on in the area

### Opening the Chiechi loop to Food Maxx Parking lot

BVNA will propose to the owners of the land behind the Food Maxx to allow public access to the parking lot through a walkway in the Chiechi fence. In this way the neighborhood may have better access to the stores and also better access to O'Connor Park. It will also give access to the new Race Street Light Rail Station (due to open this Summer). We ask that anyone with concerns about this project contact BVNA and give their input.

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### Lou's Village to Become Housing Development

Shea Homes is currently working with Lou's Village to eventually develop the site for single family homes. More information will be available at a later date.



### New San Jose City Hall

City staff will be moving from the old location to the New City Hall between June and August, 2005. Some departments and services will have new phone number.

The first official meeting of the City Council in the new City Council Chambers, will be on August 9, 2005 with a Community Celebration on October 15, 2005.

The address for the new City Hall is:

**200 East Santa Clara Street  
San José, CA 95113**

If you would like additional information you can visit <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/newCityHall/> or call (408) 277-4000.

### 280 Park Project Slowly Creeps Forward

Due to lack of open space in the area, the Burbank/Del Monte NAC has proposed that a park be built over the 280 freeway.

The NAC Parks Committee soon will be meeting with San Jose Redevelopment and Caltrans concerning a feasibility study to see if a park could be built over the freeway in front of San Jose City College.

More to come later.



