

October 2005

Letter from the President

Fellow neighbors,

The end of the year always seems liked a rushed affair: projects to be finished and holidays that need preparation. The stress just seems to mount. I encourage you to spend a few minutes to relax and take a walk around the block. Take some time to enjoy the surroundings of our neighborhood, from the newly planted trees to the neighborhood park where kids are laughing and playing. The Buena Vista Neighborhood is a vibrant, active community so go out and see it. Don't stop there; get involved. You don't have to volunteer for one of the BVNA's activities to make a difference (of course you are always welcome to do so), involvement can be simply having coffee with neighbors, doing the fall planting in your front yard or just sweeping the sidewalk.

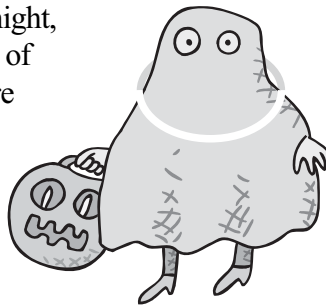
Do you know who lives next door to you? How many of us have taken the

time to get to know our neighbors? Where they are from, what sort of hobbies do they have? Do you know the names of the children on your block and who their parents are? Would you recognize a stranger in your midst? I ask these questions because a healthy community is one that acts as a whole and takes care of itself. If you have kids, Halloween is a great time to get to know your neighbors. Go up to the door and say "hi" to the nice people that are giving your kids candy. One of our streets has a monthly coffee get together. An example of where one person has increased the communication among many neighbors. So, in the end, what we need to do is slow down, get out the door, watch the leaves turn, and maybe get to know our neighbors just a little better.

BVNA President, Joe Carpenter

Something is Glowing in the Graveyard

If you see an eerie glow or a flash of light on Halloween night, you are bound to be passing the graveyard near the corner of San Carlos and Mayellen Avenue. The BVNA will be there taking Polaroid pictures of trick-or-treaters as well as distributing glowing safety necklaces. Distribution times will be from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM



INSIDE:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Clean Codes | 2 |
| The Big Picture | 3 |
| Important Numbers | 4 |
| BVNA Meetings | 4 |

BVNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| President | <i>Joe Carpenter</i> |
| Vice President | <i>Robert M. Solis</i> |
| Secretary | <i>Sally Henning</i> |
| Treasurer | <i>Patricia Johnson</i> |
| Directors at Large | <i>Steve Rogers</i> <i>Ken Henning</i> <i>Brian Ward</i> |

Does your street look like a Junk Yard?

For some years now we have had code enforcement problems within the Buena Vista Area. Some of this I feel is due to the fact that we are a mixed community of both unincorporated county pockets and incorporated city areas. Codes are somewhat different for each area but they exist to keep our streets and homes safe and looking well kept. Another problem is that most residents are not familiar with the codes.

For the most part, code enforcement is a complaint driven system. A code infraction usually must be reported to the City or County by a resident before

they will respond. That means it is the residents' responsibility to help identify code problems in the area. Sometimes code enforcement officers tour areas looking for infractions but if it's a serious problem it's best not to wait until these occur.

Here, I have downloaded a list of guidelines from the City of San Jose's Code Enforcement Web pages. They pertain to city codes but they are good guidelines for everyone. You can look at this and more about code enforcement at: www.sanjoseca.gov/codeEnforcement/ or call 408-277-4528



Got Blight?

Additional information...

Non Vehicle Items in the street

The city of San Jose Department of Traffic has a pickup service for abandoned items in the street (mattresses, couches, etc.) Call: (408) 277-4373

Dispose of excess yard sale items properly

When having a yard sale, do not place a "free" sign on the unsold items and leave them out unattended. These items are often taken by "compulsive collectors" and show up again in other areas of the neighborhood (sometimes in piles) adding to general blight conditions.

If it's on your property, it's your responsibility

According to the San Jose Code Enforcement Office, if someone is using your yard or the parkstrip to display or store non code compliant items, you as the property owner will be cited regardless of who owns the materials.

Keeping properties and streets clean is everyone's responsibility and a little effort on everyone's part can make a big difference.

BVNA Vice President, Robert M. Solis

Visible accumulations of trash, garbage and debris and other items in the front yard

Storage of debris/appliances/furniture and other items is not allowed in the front yard for more than 72 hours. Storage of these items not only detracts from the appearance of a neighborhood but also can harbor rodents and be a fire hazard.

Improper storage/overflowing garbage or recycling containers

Garbage cans and recycling containers need to be stored in the side or rear yard of a property, except on your garbage collection day. Garbage containers that are overflowing create a health hazard.

Inoperable and abandoned vehicles

Vehicles cannot be stored on the street for more than 72 hours. Inoperable vehicles cannot be stored on private property for more than 72 hours when visible from the public right of way or neighboring properties. They may be stored in the garage or in the rear yard/side yard as long as they do not block a window or door preventing escape in the event of a fire. If you have an old vehicle you would like to get rid of, and have the pink slip, the City has a free towing program. For details call 277-4528 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and ask for the free tow program.

Parking on lawns, parkstrip or sidewalks

Parking a vehicle on any unpaved surface is not allowed. Parking a vehicle on an unpaved surface can be hazardous.

There can be utilities underground, which can be damaged from the weight of the vehicle. The dirt from the front yard may be dragged into the gutter and eventually into the storm drains and into the bay, causing harm to the marine life. Also, this can be a pedestrian hazard, as most people do not expect a car to pull out from the front yard. Parking vehicles on the parkstrip and/or sidewalk is also a pedestrian hazard as it may cause some people to have to walk into the street.

The Big Picture

Buena Vista Volunteers Honored

On Saturday, October 8, 2005 at Plaza de Cesar Chavez Park, three Buena Vista volunteers were honored during the 6th Annual Mayor's Volunteer Celebration. Sabine Zappe and Loui Tucker were honored for their work in tree plantings, neighborhood trash clean up and their monthly cleaning of a stretch of 280. Robert M. Solis was honored for his years of work and long standing devotion to the Buena Vista Neighborhood. Each honoree was presented with a certificate for "Outstanding Volunteer Service" and enjoyed a free lunch. True to form all our volunteers were in the back when the pictures were taken. When asked about the honor all three volunteers said, "We are all going to get even with Joe Carpenter for nominating us!"



Honorees receive their awards from Mayor Ron Gonzales

Guadalupe River Park and Gardens opens

The new Guadalupe River Park and Gardens officially opened on Saturday, September 10. The park has trails running 2.6 miles along the Guadalupe River, as well as offering an open space for city residents, preserves habitat for local wildlife, and works in conjunction with local flood control projects. Throughout the park there

are benches and some areas have places to have picnics and barbecues. You can access the park from just about any road that crosses the Guadalupe from the Discovery Meadow to Hedding Street. There are future plans to link the park to other trails to both the north and the south as part of a larger Bay Area trail system. You can learn more about the park and download a map at www.sjredevelopment.org/grpg.htm



Guadalupe River Park and Gardens

O'Connor Park Expansion

As most of you know, Auzerais Avenue has been closed between Race Street and Meridian Avenue. This is all part of an expansion of O'Connor Park. Although set between two housing developments (Crescent Parc and Midtown Plaza) making it somewhat difficult to see from the street, O'Connor park was planned as and has always been a public park. The park is one of a chain of community parks planned that will lead to a large park at the edge of the Los Gatos Creek Trail near the old Del Monte Cannery. Part of the expansion will include another play structure and more open space. The new expansion should be opened to the public sometime in January of 2006. In addition, the Burbank/Del Monte Neighborhood Advisory Committee continues to pursue the placement of a public restroom in the park so that the park can better serve the area residents.

THE BUENA VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD



Important Phone Numbers

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| Emergency | .911 |
| Non-Emergency Police | .311 |
| San Jose Police Dept. (sex assault unit) | .277-4102 |
| Office of the Sheriff | .808-4900 |
| City Hall Call Center (24 Hours) | .535-3500 |
| San Jose Streets & Parks | .277-4661 |
| Councilperson Ken Yeager | .535-4906 |
| Code Enforcement | .277-4528 |
| Airport Noise Complaint Line | .452-0707 |
| Vehicle Abatement | .277-5305 |
| Supervisor Jim Beall | .299-5040 |
| Buena Vista Neighborhood Assn. | .380-3015 |
| Crime Stoppers | .947-STOP |
| Auto Theft Unit | .277-4051 |
| Drug Hotline | .971-DRUG |
| Gang Investigations Unit | .277-3835 |
| Graffiti Hotline | .277-2758 |
| Dead Animal Collection | .578-7279 |

The BVNA is a volunteer organization dedicated to protecting, maintaining and enhancing the Buena Vista Neighborhood community.

The BVNA meets on the last Tuesday of each month at a home of a BVNA member. You do not need to be a member to attend or participate in a meeting. If you would like more information about the BVNA or would like to attend one of the membership meetings you can contact us at (408) 380-3015 or E-mail: presbvna@gmail.com

Join our Yahoo group at
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bvna/>



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