

October 2007

Letter From the New President

Hello, I am Brian Ward, your new BVNA President. Like many presidents before me, the duty of holding this office was presented to me as "my turn" and apparently the membership agrees. I have lived in the neighborhood since 1991 and have seen many changes. One of these changes is the level of dedication of a small group of people that is working hard to improve our neighborhood. Because of them and the Burbank/Del Monte NAC, we can enjoy the improvements to Scott Street including new streetlights, trees and sidewalk ramps. The first night I drove down the street with the lights turned on was magic.

There are many changes happening in and around our neighborhood. These changes include a new park at the old Del Monte plant as well as the construction of a new library/gym/community center on Bascom Avenue. Ground has finally been broken on the old Fiesta Lanes site and the construction at the old Lou's Village site is well underway.

During all of this we must keep an eye on the infill housing that continues to target this area. Although the City admits that the County zoning of R-3 is impossible, they are still allowing developers to come in with plans that will cause a huge burden

on the crumbling infrastructure in our neighborhood. Unfortunately, the infill is mostly taking out the single-family homes and not lots that have multiple units or apartments.

Buena Vista is a unique area in Santa Clara County because of the hodgepodge of County and City land. Although the City has said they would annex our County pockets, having heard that since 1991, I tend to be more cynical especially in light of the delays by the City. However, most likely this will change in 2010.

It is very important that, as we go through these next few years, we make sure the City and County know what we as a neighborhood want to see happen. It is your voice that needs to be heard and that can be done by attending not only our neighborhood meetings but also other community meetings. A unified voice represented by many goes a long way, while a lone voice tends to be ignored. I realize that life tends to get in the way of involvement but we each need to take a little step to make sure we do stay involved. While you may think your contribution is too small to help, it is those small things that add up and help make our neighborhood better.

Brian Ward
BVNA President

Halloween Pictures of Vampires



It was said that you could not capture the image of a vampire on film. Some say this was due to the silver emulsion chemistry of the film. We have not had a problem capturing vampire images because we use Polaroid film rather than silver emulsion. If you need a picture of your vampire on October 31st (Halloween), come down to 463 Menker Ave. where we will be taking pictures of vampires and other creatures of the night as they roam the neighborhood looking for helpless candy. We will also have glow necklaces to help the little monsters be seen in the dark.

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BVNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	<i>Brian Ward</i>
Vice President	<i>Marcos Montes</i>
Secretary	<i>Loui Tucker</i>
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Directors at Large	<i>Joe Carpenter</i> <i>Robert M. Solis</i> <i>Steven Rogers</i>

New Developments

Right now there is a huge amount of new and infill housing projects being developed in the Burbank/Del Monte Area. For years now people have been asking what is happening with the old Fiesta Lanes bowling alley property and at last we can tell them that construction has begun on the Core Development's Fiesta Townhomes (32 attached townhomes). As far as we know, the Meineke Discount Mufflers on the corner will stay for the near future as they have many years left on their lease.

Just down the street you can see Summerhill Homes Village Square project (formerly Lou's Village) already in full swing building about 42 attached

townhomes. KB Homes has been busy as well developing Monte Vista (formerly the old Del Monte Plant #3). This is a huge development that includes both condos and townhomes. In addition to this, Sobrato Development Companies is planning to build another large rental community on Race and Parkmoor.

Although these developments are pumping needed dollars to the parks fund so that more recreational spaces can be created, the BVNA and other associations still wonder where all these extra people will shop, park, go to school and get their basic services. The area's population will about double, but we have seen little infrastructure improvement to offset this.

At some point, the City Council must realize that there are only so many sardines you can fit into a can and this can is full.

In the end, the thing that might slow development is that most of the new housing in this area is being built on land that was originally industrial. Many at City Hall feel that too much land has been converted from industrial to housing. We are losing the substantial tax income as well as the local jobs that these industries provided. The City is considering a "No Net Loss" approach to this problem. This might include requiring developers to replace any industrial land converted to housing be offset by new industrial land created elsewhere in the City.

Pierluigi Oliverio

Greetings Buena Vista Neighborhood!

I am honored to have been elected as your Councilmember for District 6. I took office on March 20th and have been working very hard and enjoying my job tremendously.

Lan Tran is my District 6 staff advocate for Buena Vista and Sherman Oaks neighborhoods, as well as the West San Carlos Business District. Lan previously worked with Councilmember Nguyen's office and with a local non-profit.

Please contact me at 408-535-4906 or pierluigi.oliverio@sanjoseca.gov with any questions or concerns that you may have.

*Pierluigi Oliverio
Councilmember, District 6*

A Bit of Buena Vista History

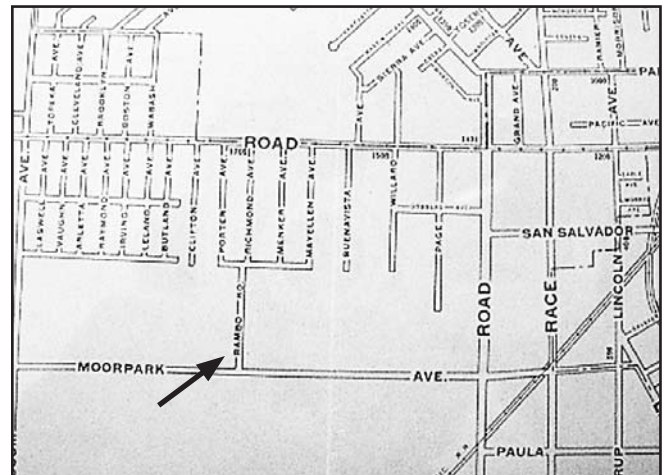
Did you know that, back in the 1920s, there was a street in our part of San Jose named Rambo Road? No kidding! It ran approximately where Richmond runs today, between Scott and Parkmoor. Take a look at map on the left. The streets were all dirt back then and the area on either side of Rambo Road was all fruit orchards.

Want to find out more about the history of the Buena Vista Neighborhood. Go to the BVNA's website—www.bvnasj.org—and click on the "Old Maps" link and/or the "History" link.

Another great History resource is:

www.historysanjose.org/cannerylife/through-the-years/1967-1999/monte-vista.html.

Here you can see a bit of history about the Del Monte Cannery and watch interviews with people who worked there.



The Great Trash Can Offer



Having a problem with litter in your neighborhood? Do you think having a public trash can would help? Well, the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association is ready to help you!

The BVNA will provide (1) a trash receptacle (2) a chain (3) a lock and (4) a year's supply of trash can liners. Someone will come to your house, help you select a good spot for the receptacle, and get it chained to a telephone pole, tree, or signpost. You'll get the supply of trash can liners.

What's the catch? You have to commit to emptying the trash receptacle every 7-10 days, disposing of the trash with your own garbage, and replacing the can liner each time.

Sound like a good deal? Call BVNA Secretary Loui Tucker at 408-287-9999 or e-mail her at loui@louisutucker.com and she will take care of the rest.

Who is Shopping at Your Grocery Store?

Who is shopping at your grocery store? Everyone apparently. With the loss of most of the area's Albertson's, people need to buy their groceries somewhere and that somewhere is here.

I was wondering why Safeway shelves are often in the middle of being restocked or just empty. In fact, our local Safeway and Food Maxx not only serve this immediate area but also a large portion of downtown, Willow Glen and Sherman Oaks.

You would think that with a loss of a major grocery chain, there would be another chain waiting in the wings ready to take advantage of the opportunity. Not so. No major chain has come forward with an interest in placing stores in our area. Analysts say that Walmart has taken so much of the business, now grocery chains are hesitant to expand into new areas. Even if we had a willing new grocery chain, we

do not have a site to put it. Most of the former Albertson's sites now are leased to DD's stores and there are very few other places that would suffice.

Fortunately, we will see a new Whole Foods Store on Stockton, and a Trader Joe's is already open to the north, but areas like Sherman Oaks will continue to be under served.

So what do you do? If you have a car you have a few options like going to Campbell and shopping there. It seems people are buying more groceries at Target, Costco or big box stores. There are still restaurant supply stores like Cash & Carry where you can buy food in the larger sizes. Fortunately, even if you don't have a car, some of the other non grocery stores are stocking more food and essentials. The Long's store in Sherman Oaks—near where the Albertson's used to be—has increased the amount of food on the

shelves to support people that have no option but to walk. I, myself, am spending more time at Walgreen's—just so I don't have to face those long lines to get a gallon of milk. Furthermore, we still have various ethnic food stores in the area that would be glad to have more business.

What does the future hold? There is a chance that the City will be courting some "Micro-Grocery" Stores that are smaller than regular chain stores and could fit in smaller lots. These smaller stores would be set up to support areas that do not have local grocery stores. They would provide the basics and some local ethnic items.

Until something is done, you are likely to see me standing a line with the rest of you wishing for the good old days when just three was a crowd.

*Robert M. Solis,
BVNA Director.*

More Parks Planned

If you look at the sign near the new Monte Vista housing development over by the Old Del Monte Cannery, you will see a sign that indicates that a new two-acre park will be built there. Area leaders and residents are already meeting about what kind of amenities should be placed in the new park. The park will be a stopping point on the Los Gatos Creek trail. So far, thanks to the work of Council Member Pierluigi Oliverio, the park will have a public restroom so that it can serve more residents in the area. It will also have something that no District 6 park has: a dog run. Community leaders have hopes that the park will be expanded to include the adjacent land thus making it the largest park in the area.

There are many other potential park projects in the area: The old Murry's Bar site on Bascom Avenue—across the street from

Street Light Records and the new library—could become a park if enough money can be found to fund the site. A second small park is planned for Scott Street. There are also sites on San Carlos Street and in the Shasta area being considered.

As more land is developed, community leaders are desperate to grab any bit of open space where a recreational area could be potentially developed. Now there are very few places that can be used for parks. This was one reason the Burbank/Del Monte NAC still continues to push the idea of building a park over the 280 freeway. Unfortunately the freeway park project has not made any headway in the last year as tight budgets have prevented the availability of funds for the next phase of the feasibility study.

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency911
Community Services Referral (United Way)	211
Non-Emergency Police	311
Underground Utilities (where not to dig)	811
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
Council member Pierluigi Oliverio	535-4906
Code Enforcement	277-4528
Airport Noise Complaint Line	452-0707
Vehicle Abatement	277-5305
Supervisor Ken Yeager	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 you 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>

and go to our website at

www.bvnasj.org



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