



Welcome to the LVNA

Villager

The Newsletter of the Lakewood Village Neighborhood Association



Lakewood Village Neighborhood Association

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Happy Holidays!

No LVNA Meeting in December

Holiday Parade on December 6th

Holiday Lighting Contest on December 22nd

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more than a friendly smile and some kind words. I love listening to one of the guys in particular play his guitar, he is actually quite good. I was very hurt to hear that someone stole his guitar a couple of weeks ago. It actually made my heart ache to think that someone would do something like that. Here is a person who has limited possessions and someone has the nerve to take one of the things that is special to him. How awful. The only thing that I can think is who ever it was must have really needed it, since the thought of someone taking it just to be mean and spiteful makes me sick. I just keep reminding my self that what goes around, comes around. So as you go though this season of giving please be mindful that it doesn't matter your social position what matters are your actions.



News and Features

President's Column

- Phyllis Murphy



Happy Holidays! As we are underway in the holiday season I especially feel drawn to this neighborhood and the warm feelings it gives off. I enjoy driving through the neighborhood and looking at all of the decorated houses. I often stop by our local 7-11 and visit with the guys that sit out front. You know they are always in a pleasant mood, not really wanting much

► continued in next column

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Newsletter Walkers Needed on Lakewood side

- Wendy Stanley

I am in **desperate** need of a walker to help deliver this newsletter. The route involves going to 62 houses on Lakebird from Greenlake to halfway down Lakebird. If you are interested or would like to be a back-up walker when someone is on vacation, please let me know. Contact Wendy Stanley at 745-1331. ■

Help! I Hate My Privet Tree!

- Ursula Syrova

At the last LVNA general meeting we were pleased to have Lauren Weiser, an arborist from the city, come and speak to us. First off, Mr. Weiser reminded us that trees do buffer the wind, filter pollution, put out oxygen, and do look nice too. But he understands they can create trouble too. A number of people had previously expressed their unhappiness with the city trees that grow in their public right of way. (The public right of way is defined as the eleven feet from the face of the curb back toward your house). Complaints generally involved either being allergic to the trees or being unhappy with the debris that the trees are dropping. Mr. Weiser was very informative, and has been with the city long enough that he knows off the top of his head which trees are planted where when people called out what streets they lived on. Many trees, he says, have only become problems recently. Hackberry trees, for instance, have only started to drop sticky stuff all over the street and sidewalks in the past few years. (This is the result of aphid infestation). Privet trees were a big area of concern as many people are now allergic to them. The problem has become so widely understood that the city will remove city Privet trees upon request. So if you have a Privet tree and want it removed, you just have to call Neighborhood Preservation Division, Community Development Department at 408 730-7444. If you have trouble with Holly Oaks dropping acorns, a well-timed pruning in the spring or fall can help reduce the crop. Aphid infestation of the Hackberry trees can be helped by properly timed pesticide application.

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▶ *continued from previous column*

Two questions that were asked were: why did they plant the trees they did, and what are they planting now that they know these trees are problematic? The answers were that the tree choices are based mainly on availability at reasonable cost and appropriateness to the climate and water use (the less the better). They are no longer planting Tulip, Privet, Holly Oak or Hackberry trees, all of which have been identified as creating problems. Two of the trees they currently plant are Swamp Myrtle and Fan West Ash.

What are we allowed to cut off our city trees? Mr. Weiser said that limbs up to one inch in diameter are okay for people to trim themselves, but anything greater than that needs to be left to the city, or you can call a professional pruning service if you need or want pruning done before the city has it scheduled.

Overall the message from Mr. Weiser was that the city does want to help and support us with our tree issues, but we need to understand that with budget cuts the number of staff members for tree maintenance has dropped 26%. (They have 4 fewer tree cutters than before). As part of the cost cutting measures, there is no longer any pesticide spraying provided by the city, and the trimming interval has been extended to every 6-8 years. However, if you have a tree that is blocking a city streetlight or dragging down to car level, you can call for service. Similarly, you should also call if a tree is interfering with high power electricity lines. Here are phone numbers to call:

Overgrowth/Overhanging over City Sidewalks or Streets

Neighborhood Preservation Division
Community Development Department
408 730-7610

Tree Cutting/Removal, Significant Trees

Planning Division
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■

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Sunnyvale Again Ranked as One of America's Safest Cities

- City press release #11 10



The City of Sunnyvale has once again been ranked as one of America's safest cities. Of the 350 cities ranked nationally in all population categories, Sunnyvale was rated the fourth Safest City in America in its population category (100,000 - 499,999) and 10th safest city overall.

The Morgan Quitno Safest City Award program reviews FBI statistics from 350 cities nationwide. The annual rankings are based on six basic crime categories: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and motor vehicle theft.

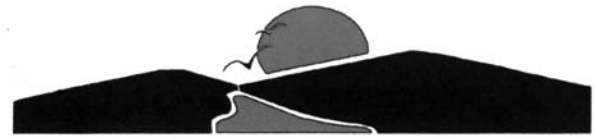
"We have always been proud of the excellent, dedicated work performed by the members of the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety," said Sunnyvale Mayor John Howe. "Our annual resident surveys have demonstrated that our residents feel safe in their community and this continuing national recognition again underscores that our public safety officers are among the finest in the nation."

California cities fared well in the annual survey which was released this week. Four California cities ranked in the top ten among cities of all size, and in Sunnyvale's size category, a total of six California cities were ranked in the top ten. ■

Don't Leave Valuables In Your Car

- Ursula Syrova

Recently the Mercury News reported three auto burglaries in our neighborhood, so you might want to bring any valuables inside. ■



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Lakewood School News

- Wendy Stanley

We had a great turn out for our book fair. We were able to get over 250 books to give to classrooms, the library, and prizes for the kids to earn. Thanks to all who came and supported us.



Remember, school will be out from December 22nd through January 2nd. We look forward to seeing the kids on the 5th.

Please encourage your children to read over the holidays. ■

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Aren't We Supposed to be Getting The Sun Delivered?

- Ursula Syrova

That's right, you sure are! The Sun newspaper recently expanded its delivery area, and all of Sunnyvale is supposed to get a free copy delivered every Wednesday. If you haven't been seeing yours, call 408-200-1000. ■

From the Editor's Desk

- Editor

Correction

Last month's Calendar of Upcoming Events had incorrect dates for Street Sweeping. I thank those who contacted me about the error, and encourage anyone who finds an error or has a question about content in *The Villager* to contact.

To contact the Editor of The Villager...

Send your letters to the editor, articles, comments, and corrections by email to editor@lvna.net, by FAX to (408) 738-2821, or by postal mail to LVNA Villager, c/o Brian Smithson, 1104 Burntwood Court, Sunnyvale CA 94089. ■

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This Month in Lakewood History...

- Brian Smithson

49 years ago: In 1954, a developer submitted plans for a 409-home tract where Unit II is today, on the northeast corner of Lawrence Station Rd. (now Expressway) and the Bayshore Hwy. (now the US-101 Freeway). Also submitted were plans for a 304-room Holiday Inn motel (now a Ramada Inn).



48 years ago: After 13 years of drought, some ambitious cloud-seeding resulted in the Christmas Flood of 1955. It rained for almost two weeks and Sunnyvale's lowlands (including parts of Lakewood Village) sustained some flooding.

44 years ago: In 1959, the first Lakewood Village Holiday Parade was held, and also that year, the first Holiday Lighting Contest was held.

43 years ago: In 1960, the Lakewood Village Merchant's Association was formed.

Share your history!

Are you a long-time resident of Lakewood Village? Do you have old photographs, real state brochures, newspaper clippings, or old LVRA/LVNA newsletters sitting in your garage? I'll copy items and return the originals. Call 738-5939 or email editor@lvna.net. ■

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I remember when ...

- Charlotte McKenna

I remember when the property now covered with housing was fields ... and vegetables for the local cannery were grown there. As a youngster we pulled carrots and picked tomatoes in those fields on the north side of Lawrence Station Road ... the carrots were HUGE and had no flavor whatsoever ... but were being used in soups in the local cannery (I don't know which soup company but I think it was Campbells???) ... the tomatoes were good though.

During the winter in those years (we're talking about '56-'57-ish) I recall driving north on Bayshore Hwy and the fields that we'd picked in that previous summer were full of water ... just big lakes.... I always wondered what miracles had been performed to turn those "lakes in the winter" into dry home areas.

- Char ■

Cool! Water Feature, Skateboarding Area Planned for Lakewood Park by Summer 2004

- Ursula Syrova

At the November general meeting of the LVNA we were joined by Parks Superintendent Curtis Black, who had some great news to share about upcoming changes to Lakewood Park. As part of a project out for bid right now, several areas of the park will get improvements and upgrades. The roller rink area will get a new surface, and some obstacles will be added for the enjoyment of skateboarders and rollerbladers. Where the old teepees used to be will be a new gazebo, and a water feature will be added near the park buildings and the playground, with an aerospace theme of course! The fire pit area may have some concrete and wood chips added, as well as a hose bib to help extinguish fires. If possible, there will also be a volleyball pit. The plan calls for construction to be complete by late spring or early summer.

The bad news, he said, is that with city budget cuts future projects will be limited in scope to health and safety issues. Luckily for us this plan squeaked through just in time! ■

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Opinions and Editorials

Letters to the LVNA

November 19, 2003

I have a request of the dog owners of Lakewood. I am a dog owner and walk my dog through the parks in the area. Yesterday I was walking my dog and an older man riding his bike muttered to me about all the dog deposits through the park. I had, a minute earlier picked up after my dog as is the law. I felt like I was being blamed for the thoughtless acts of a minority of dog owners in the area. This has got to stop. I understand the gentlemen's irritation though misplaced as I share his concerns. This problem is from small breeds as well as large dogs as evidenced by the leavings. I urge neighbors to give a description of the offending persons to the appropriate authorities of if you are out-spoken like the above mentioned gentleman speak up. I know that most of you dog owners are good stewards of your dogs as I have noted most of you picking up after your furry friend. I suggest the non-performers put a plastic bag in your pocket before leaving the house. I find that the bags that the mercury news comes in works quite well.

- Sincerely, a fellow dog owner. ■

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Died Homeless

- James Daugherty

Has anything really touched your heart lately? Two things have for me. I went to Oregon to visit my dad who lives alone in a two-bedroom house he owns with his dog Lucky. He's eighty-one this year and is having health problems. He has family visit him weekly and a cleaning lady once a week. A nurse from Social Services stops in as needed.

As we sat talking he reflected on some homeless people we saw walking along River Road. "How do they live?" he asked, reflecting on his own good fortune. "No family, no home of their own. How do they live?" As I looked back over the years I realized how close my wife and I are to the same future and a feeling of understanding and gratitude for our own good fortune permeated my emotions.

November 20th. I open the San Jose Mercury News to the *Valley* section and my eyes catch the story headline, "Died Homeless". The story is of the fifty three people who died homeless this year in Santa Clara County (twenty nine last year). These were victims of poverty, illness, and unemployment.

The article continues to state that the population is changing from low income and unemployed to more people who are mentally ill, disabled, and elderly, that are unable to care for themselves.

In a valley that has made millionaires out of people, and a few billionaires, in a country that is a world leader in wealth as well as political freedom, it seems oddly strange and out of place that we cannot properly take care of the least of these. Yet we can spend billions a day to insure a people half way around the world, freedoms and values most of us take for granted.

In Santa Clara County, 20,000 people are homeless per year and statewide the number is over 360,000 annually. As Christmas approaches followed by the new year, perhaps some reflections are in order, and a little more appreciation should be shown for what we have. Perhaps, too, some sharing of that good fortune with others. ■



Announcements!

No Meetings in December

Because of the many holiday activities this time of year, the LVNA does not hold its General Meeting or its Board Meeting in the month of December. ■

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City of Sunnyvale Seeking Applicants for Boards and Commissions



- City press release #11 01

The City of Sunnyvale is now accepting applications to fill seven seats on the City's advisory boards and commissions. Boards and commissions advise the City Council on policy issues and are appointed by the Council, usually for a term of four years.

Three members of the Planning Commission were elected to City Council seats in November, creating three vacancies on that commission. The Board of Building Code Appeals and the Heritage Preservation Commission each have two openings. Applications are currently being accepted.

An information meeting for those interested in serving is scheduled December 8 at 6 p.m. at Sunnyvale City Hall, West Conference Room. City Hall is located at 456 West Olive Avenue. The application period for board and commission appointments closes 5 p.m., Friday, December 26, 2003.

For an application and more information, call the Sunnyvale City Clerk's office at 730-7595 or visit <http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/> and click on *Boards and Commissions*. ■

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2 nd Vice President	Thom Mayer	vicepresident2@lvna.net	734-3935
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Delivery (Lakewood)	Wendy Stanley	walkers@lvna.net	745-1331
http://www.lvna.net/Miscellany/Contact/contact.html			



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Lakewood email list	http://www.topica.com/lists/lakewoodvillage
City of Sunnyvale	http://www.sunnyvale.ca.gov
Sunnyvale Library	http://www.sunnyvalelibrary.org
http://www.lvna.net/Resources/Links/links.html	

Calendar of Upcoming Events

What	Where	When
Street Sweeping	Your street – move your cars!	12/2, 12/16, 12/30
LVNA Holiday Parade	Lakewood School to Fairwood Park	12/6, 11am-1pm
Pediatric Mobile Health Clinic	Lakewood School	12/9, 12/23 8am – 5pm
Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off	Carl Road, near the SMaRT Station (dump)	12/20, 8am-1pm
LVNA Holiday Lighting Contest	Your house – don't forget to turn your lights on	12/22, judging starts at 7:00pm
LVNA Villager Editorial Deadline	Contact editor@lvna.net	12/26
http://www.lvna.net/Resources/Calendar/calendar.html		

Important Phone Numbers

Public Safety – Emergency		911
Public Safety – Non-emergency		730-7100
Parks and Maintenance		730-7506
Animal Control		730-7178
Code Enforcement		730-7610
Crime Prevention		730-7140
Hazardous Materials		730-7212
Housing Inspection		730-7610
Lakewood Pool		734-8190
Neighborhood and Community Services	Peter Bassett	730-7739
Neighborhood Preservation	Rich Gutierrez	730-7447
Street Light Repairs		730-7510
Shopping Cart Retrieval		730-7510
NRO	Dave Falletta	730-7148
Vehicle Abatement	Michelle Raff	730-7104
http://www.lvna.net/Resources/Phones/phones.html		

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