

# Will this be the last issue of *The Villager*?

See Page 2.

Welcome to the LVNA

# Villager

The Newsletter of the Lakewood Village Neighborhood Association

## Lakewood Village Neighborhood Association

Lakewood Village, Sunnyvale, California

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To subscribe to the Lakewood Village mailing list, send a blank email to:

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[www.lvna.net](http://www.lvna.net)

## Next LVNA Meeting:

Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, Fairwood School

Magkakaroon po nang pagpupulong ang LVNA

sa 12 Marso, 2003, 7:00 pm sa Fairwood School

Proxima junta de LVNA sera efectuada

el 12 Marzo, 2003 a las 7:00 pm en el Fairwood School

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## News and Features

### President's Column

- Craig Crawford

The elections for the LVNA board will be held at this month's LVNA general membership meeting. I have talked about this for the past five months. I will not go into it except to say that we need leaders to volunteer for positions with the LVNA. The board position of President is open, and the LVNA will not continue to exist without that position being filled. As of today I have not been contacted by anyone to put his or her

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name on the ballot. The volunteer position of Newsletter Production Coordinator is also open, and this newsletter will cease to exist without that position being filled. I have talked and talked about the value of the LVNA, and now it's time for you to think of life without this organization's united voice for Lakewood Village. ■

### Lost, Please Return: Stroller

On the afternoon of Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, I mistakenly left my daughter's stroller on the sidewalk in front of Lakewood School and California Young World. It's an Evenflo model with a blue and white checked print. If you know of its whereabouts, please give me a call at 747-5524. Thank you!

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## Will this be the Last Issue of *The Villager*?

- Editor

As you know, we have an LVNA election coming up at the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. At the time I am writing this, no one has come forward to express an interest in becoming the new LVNA President, and no one has come forward to express an interest in becoming the new Newsletter Production Coordinator. Without people like you filling those positions, the LVNA and this newsletter will not be able to continue to operate. It's as simple as that.

It has been my privilege to be the Editor of this newsletter for the past year, and during that time I have watched the officers and other volunteers of the LVNA work together for the benefit of our neighborhood and all of its residents. The LVNA and everything it brings to Lakewood Village exists only because people like you volunteer to become people like them.

Volunteering to work with the LVNA has been very rewarding for me, and I believe that you'll find it to be rewarding too. Come to the meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>, talk to the current LVNA volunteers, and consider joining us for the benefit of your neighborhood, your neighbors, and yourself. ■



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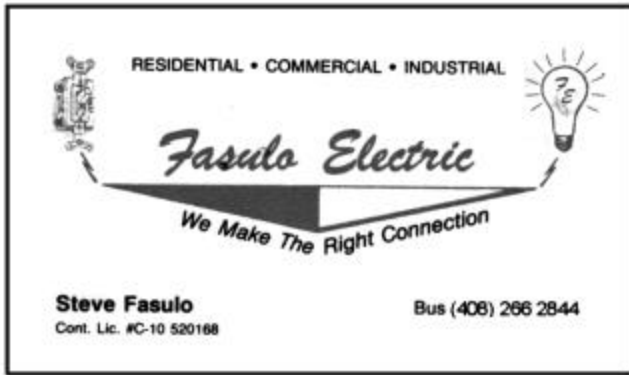
### Wanted: Newsletter Coordinator

- Craig Crawford  
President, LVNA

Our Newsletter Production Coordinator, Mel Anderson, has been working for the LVNA for over 10 years in this position. Mel has decided to take a break and pass this position to another volunteer. If you have a few spare hours each month, then consider this position.

The job description is: send bills to the advertisers, take the newsletter copy from the Editor to the Printer, and once it is ready, pick up the printed copies and give them to the newsletter walker coordinators for distribution to the newsletter walkers.

This is a key position and without this there is no newsletter. So, if you don't want to be on the LVNA Board but still want to volunteer, this is the position for you. Mel will be missed and we love you for all that you do. ■



## City Budget Woes

- Fred Fowler

Greetings, Lakewood Village! I write to you now because times have gotten very tough for the City of Sunnyvale. In a rather short time, our economic fortunes have turned and we are facing some grim choices. Those choices will affect every corner of our city. I would like to explain to you my understanding of what has happened, how it happened, and what our options are for moving on from here.

### REVENUE AND EXPENSE

First, here are some basics about how the City manages money. City governments use a kind of accounting called "Fund Accounting", which is different from the accounting methods used by businesses. In a business there are assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, all of which are netted out to measure the profit or loss of a business. In government, there is no such thing as "profit" or "loss". There are only sources of money are purposes for which money is used. Governments manage money by matching up specific sources with specific purposes they are supposed to serve. These "match-ups" are called "Funds". Thus there is a fund called the Wastewater fund, which gets money from sewer fees and uses it to run the City's sewer system. Likewise there is the Housing fund, which gets its money from development fees and is used to increase the supply of affordable housing. There are 21 major funds and numerous sub-funds administered by the City.

There are basically two sources of money for these funds: fees and taxes. Fees are used when a "customer" can be identified who

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agrees to use a specific service and is willing to reimburse the City for the cost of providing it. Taxes are used when no specific "customer" can be identified ahead of time. Our City-owned golf course charges a fee when someone wants to play a round of golf: the golfer is a specific customer who agrees to pay the costs of his or her use of the course. Conversely, taxes pay for our police and fire services, as no one can predict ahead of time whether he or she will be robbed or have their house catch fire. Also, no one wants to dicker over the price when such things happen.

Our budget problems do not involve those City activities that are funded through fees. Our City policy (generally) states that fees will be set on a "cost recovery" basis -- as costs rise and fall they are balanced by fee level adjustments. Our current problems involve those funds that use tax money to do their work.

There is a major tax based fund that is used to pay for just about all of the "public benefit" services provided by the City. It is called the "General" fund. Our current problem can be

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summarized by saying that, due to a variety of reasons, our General Fund currently has about 10% less tax revenue than it needs. Put another way, we have recently found out that our current plans to provide "public benefit" services cost 10% more than the tax money we have to pay for them. Needless to say, something has to change. The City Council and the community have to figure out what to do to balance the books. We have to make serious choices in order to bring our services levels and our tax revenues back into balance.

**HOW AND WHY**

How did we get into this predicament? That is a good question. Reasonable people are disagreeing about how it happened, and we may never really know the entire story. Still, there are some broad outlines I will share with you, along with my own personal opinion as to what caused this mess.

We can all remember the great "dot.com boom" economy we had in the late 1990s, and we are all living through the "dot.com bust" now. There is no question that the boom and the bust affected our city's finances. From 1999 through the end of 2000 the City collected far more tax money than it ever anticipated. Since then, our revenues have fallen back significantly. Much has been made of this, especially by the City Manager. He lists falling tax revenues as one of the three primary causes of our current problems.

In this area, I disagree with the City Manager. More tax money would definitely help, but I don't believe that falling revenues are the right culprit to focus on in this case. As evidence, I will point out that we do long range forecasting

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of our revenue and expenses. We routinely predict how much money will be needed in future years in order to provide a stable set of services to our residents. The budget we adopted for the fiscal year 2000-2001 predicted that we would have about \$95 million dollars in tax revenue this year. As it turns out, we don't have \$95 million. *We have \$97 million.*

That's right. Even in this recession we have *more* money now than we predicted we would have only three years ago. Something changed drastically during those three years to put us into the pickle we find ourselves in now.

**SERVICE LEVELS AND COSTS**

One thing that has NOT changed is the "level of service" that the city is supposed to provide to its residents and businesses. Those levels are set by the City Council each year when the budget is adopted. Our policy is to maintain a "status quo" for services and change them only after a public debate. There have been no significant changes to our services in quite some time.

What has changed is the cost to the city of providing those services. Since the 1999-2000 budget year, our costs have risen almost 25%(!). In other words, it now costs an average of 25% more to do the same things we were doing for 25% less just three years ago. Those costs have been growing at about 8% per year. For the first two years, the "dot.com boom" revenues hid the problem from us. Now that we are in the bust and our revenues are at more "normal" levels, this cost problem has hit us with a vengeance.

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### WHAT TO DO?

The City Manager has proposed a "6 point plan" to address the budget crisis. That plan is still unfolding, but its theme is to make substantial cuts in just about everything the General Fund does in order to bring the situation into balance. So far, we have seen proposed cuts in our list of "capital projects". In the near future we will see proposals to forgo replacing old equipment, leave unfilled positions vacant, cut service levels and raise taxes. It will not be a pleasant set of choices to make.

There are many projects and services near and dear to Lakewood Village's heart that will probably have to be sacrificed to this problem. High on that list is the Wildwood Intersection project. It is expensive and difficult and only benefits Lakewood Village. I don't expect it to be spared. In my opinion, it fits the criteria I would use to select projects for the chopping block. No one has fought for this project harder than I have (I've spent 9 years!). Even so, it is probably in the best interests of the city as a whole to use the money for other things in this terrible budget situation we find ourselves in.

In my opinion, there are two imperative needs facing us. First, we have to come together as a community in order to decide which General Fund projects and services are the most important ones to keep. The City of Sunnyvale doesn't undertake any activity without a purpose. Everything we do with General Fund tax revenue has a good reason behind it and usually directly benefits some or all of our city residents. We are at a point where we can't do

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it all anymore. We have to choose those things that are the most important to try to do. After that, we will see how many of them we *can* do.

Secondly, we must find out why our costs are growing so fast, and we must bring that growth under control. Ultimately, our costs must not grow faster than the revenues we use to pay for them. As I said before, this growth is *not* the result of a "spending binge" by the Council on new projects and services. It is the result of having to pay more for the *same service levels* that have been in place for many years. In my opinion, it is a result of the way the City has been managed for the last few years. I don't know what specifically has gone wrong, but I am certainly going to do my very best to find out.

If we don't make significant budget cuts now, we will sacrifice the present day life of our City. If we do not control the growth of our costs, we will sacrifice the future of our City. The present day budget cuts will be very painful. *If we do not control the growth of our costs, no amount of "present day" cuts will be enough.* We will either control the growth or make more painful cuts year after year until we do.

It isn't a pretty picture. Still, this is all about choices. The Council and the community have to make choices about what things the City should or should not do. We also have to choose how to pay for the things we decide are worth paying for. The Council has a responsibility to the community to make sure that every tax (and fee) dollar is used efficiently and effectively for the purpose intended. Ultimately, the Council and the community together have to decide what those purposes should be.

I have great faith in our community. Sunnyvale has attracted the most talented and capable people in the world over the years. Together we have more than enough collective wisdom to solve problems much worse than this one. All we have to do is to find a way to work together on it. I'll be doing what I can to make that happen. I look forward to working with you all. ■

## From the Editor's Desk

- Editor

### **What's New on [www.lvna.net](http://www.lvna.net)**

The LVNA web site is updated at least once per month with new calendar items and other new content. See it at <http://www.lvna.net>.

### **To contact the Editor of The Villager...**

Send your letters to the editor, articles, comments, and corrections by email to [editor@lvna.net](mailto: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

- 47 years ago:* In 1956, General Motors purchased 200 acres of land near Lawrence and Oakmead. They decided to build their auto manufacturing plant in Fremont, otherwise it would have been our neighbor!
- 45 years ago:* In 1958, weekly street sweeping was started.
- 44 years ago:* In 1959, Lakewood School was completed, and the Lakewood Shell gas station opened for business.
- 40 years ago:* In 1963, Fire Station #6 was dedicated.
- 33 years ago:* In 1970, Sunnyvale Library Bookmobile service started.

### **Share your history!**

Are you a long-time resident of Lakewood Village? Do you have old photographs, real estate 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](mailto:editor@lvna.net). ■



# Opinions and Editorials

## Letters to the LVNA

February 28, 2003

A letter of thanks to the family who found our dog in your neighborhood when he got out.

Dear Family,

Thank you for your caring and kindness on the evening of February 21st, Tuesday about 9:00pm. You rescued our dog Ruff when he got out the front door, leash and all, from Aunt Margaret's house [on Prescott]. Your family was out for an evening walk when he ran away from Aunt Margaret.

We had gone to say goodbye to our new baby granddaughter in Milpitas before we headed home to Santa Ana (Tustin), early the next morning. Aunt Margaret had become attached to Ruff and asked us to let him stay with her for the evening. He is a mix of a Yorkie and Poodle and has the Yorkie temperament to want to go and explore when the door is open. The girl next door wanted to borrow an egg, and when the door was open, away he went.

We drove back and were driving around and this very special family was also driving around hoping to see someone looking for a lost dog with a tag on him from out of the area.

May we say Thank You, whoever you are, and we sure would like to get your address to say Thank You when we are back up to visit Aunt Margaret.

Thank you from our dog Ruff, a medium-sized dog who loves children.

Richard and Carole Caplett  
2092 Shelterwood Rd.  
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March 2, 2003

Dear Neighbors,

I just had my driveway cemented and I'm completely devastated by what some of your children did to vandalize it. An area of one foot by five feet was written on. It included names of "Frank", "Drew", "April", "Frank" again, "Padilla" or "Padina", "MP", "SV", and "Fiarwood" (yes, spelled wrong). I have no idea if I can get this out, but if this is your child, it would be a good idea to have a chat with them about acts of vandalism, the cost, and that they are breaking the law!!!!!! I paid \$5,000.00 to have my driveway look nice and now by their acts of vandalism I may have a permanent reminder of their mischievous behavior.

- Bev Woidyla

**Apologies from the Editor!**

Somebody wrote a letter to the LVNA around mid January and left it in my mailbox. It should have been published in the February issue, but I misplaced the letter, and even this month I still cannot find it. I apologize for my carelessness, and hope that you will write again.

- Editor ■



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# Announcements

## LVNA General Meeting

- Editor

All residents of Lakewood Village are encouraged to attend this monthly meeting. You will meet some of your neighbors, learn about upcoming events of special interest to our community, have a chance to voice your concerns and opinions, and help work towards a better neighborhood. Children are welcome.

The next meeting is:

Date: Wednesday, Marh 12<sup>th</sup>

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Fairwood School ■

## LVNA Board Meetings

- Craig Crawford

Any Lakewood Village resident can attend the LVNA Board Meetings. If you are interested in attending an LVNA Board Meeting, contact the LVNA President, Craig Crawford, at 736-7371 or president@lvna.net. ■

► *more Announcements, next page*

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## Sunnyvale Mayor and Councilmembers Hold Community Meetings to Discuss Budget

*Sunnyvale, CA (02/13/03)* – The City of Sunnyvale will hold a series of community meetings over the next several months to help the public gain an understanding of the budget issues the City is confronting and what caused them, the process the City is undertaking to resolve this situation, and to ask for the community’s input on how best to address these issues.

There will be two initial community meetings on the budget. The first meeting will be **Friday, February 21, from 10:00-11:00 am** at the Columbia Middle School’s multi-purpose room. The second meeting will be **Monday, February 24, from 7:00-8:00 pm** at the Sunnyvale Community Center’s community room.

Mayor Julia Miller and other City Councilmembers will be providing an overview of the City’s financial situation in light of the State of California’s proposed budget cuts and other factors. Additional community meetings are planned for March, April, and May to inform the public about impacts to the City’s ten-year Capital Plan, service level reductions, potential tax increases and other related issues, and to solicit the community’s input into this process.

The schedule for the additional community meetings on the budget is as follows with locations to be determined:

### Community Meeting Schedule

#### **10-Year Capital Plan**

March 18, 10:00 a.m.  
March 20, 7:00 p.m.

#### **Community Meeting: Service Level Reductions, Rental Rate Schedules, Formulas for In-Lieu Fees and Inter-Fund Transfers**

April 15, 10:00 a.m.  
April 16, 7:00 p.m.

#### **Community Meeting: Potential Fees, Charges and Tax Increases**

May 8, 7:00 p.m.  
May 13, 10:00 a.m.

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#### **Council FY03-04 Budget Workshop (Public is invited to attend; no public hearing)**

May 20, 8:00 a.m.  
City Council Chambers

#### **Community Meeting: Full City-wide FY03-04 Budget**

May 22, 7:00 p.m.,  
May 23, 10:00 a.m.

#### **Official Public Hearing on FY03-04 City Budget**

June 3, 7:30 p.m.  
City Council Chambers

#### **Council Meeting to Adopt Budget**

June 17, 7:30 p.m.  
City Council Chambers

Please call Peter Bassett in Neighborhood and Community Services at (408) 730-7739 for more information. ■



## Sunnyvale Mayor Appointed to Regional Airport Planning Committee

*Sunnyvale, CA (02/06/03)* – Sunnyvale Mayor, Julia Miller, was recently appointed to the Regional Airport Planning Committee (RAPC), comprised of representatives from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the region’s three international airports—San Francisco, San Jose, and Oakland—and state and federal agencies.

An important project that the RAPC is undertaking is updating the Regional Airport System Plan to inform and guide decisions affecting runway capacity in the Bay Area over the next 20 years. “Since Sunnyvale is home to Moffett Field, and the future use of this airfield and its runways is extremely important to the residents of Sunnyvale and our surrounding cities, it will be essential to have this perspective represented,” said Mayor Miller.

The Committee has also commissioned new aviation forecasts for 2010 and 2020,

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- Editor

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

What	Where	When
Bookmobile	Fairwood School	3/4, 3/18 3:05-3:45pm
Bookmobile	Lakewood School	2/13, 2/27 1:30-3pm
Compost Workshop	Community Center	3/8 10am-noon
LVNA General Meeting	Fairwood School	3/12 7:00pm
Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off	164 Carl Rd. Transfer Station	3/15 8am-1pm

For the most complete calendar, go to

<http://www.lvna.net/Resources/Calendar/calendar.html>



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## Internet Links

LVNA Web Site	<a href="http://www.lvna.net">http://www.lvna.net</a>
Lakewood email list	<a href="http://www.topica.com/lists/lakewoodvillage">http://www.topica.com/lists/lakewoodvillage</a>

For other Internet Links, go to  
<http://www.lvna.net/Resources/Links/links.html>

## LVNA Officials

President	Craig Crawford	president@lvna.net	736-7371
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Sarah Daugherty	vicepresident1@lvna.net	734-0785
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Elena Anderson	vicepresident2@lvna.net	745-6028
Secretary	Tom Freeman	secretary@lvna.net	734-5769
Treasurer	Art Daugherty	treasurer@lvna.net	734-0785
Newsletter Editor	Brian Smithson	editor@lvna.net	738-5939
Ad/Production	Mel Anderson	advertising@lvna.net	745-6028
Webmaster	Brian Smithson	webmaster@lvna.net	738-5939

## Important Phone Numbers

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<b>Public Safety – Non-emergency</b>	<b>730-7100</b>
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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

For the most complete list of City phone numbers, go to

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