



Silver Leaf Neighborhood Association

Newsletter - November, 2008

TOP 10 LIST AND CITY HALL

For those of you who are relatively new to the neighborhood, you may not be aware of the ancient history of most of the items on our Top Ten List. However, thanks to the added boost from the Strong Neighborhood Initiative program by out-going Councilman Forrest Williams, we were able to present these priorities to the full City Council. The effort was coordinated by the Silver Leaf Coalition, which includes our Silver Leaf Neighborhood Association, Four Seasons Mobile Home Park and the two housing loops off Ford. Completion of the items on the list will benefit the entire community, and we owe our thanks to the active members of SLNA, SLC, and our City government.

The presentation took place at the Council Meeting Tuesday, the 18th. We had approximately 100 members attending to show their support. As a reminder, the Top 10 List is printed below:

1. Median beautification
2. Traffic calming
3. Safety for our children
4. Repaving Monterey Road
5. Code Enforcement/Crime Prevention training for community
6. Entry way beautification (e.g. Welcome to Silver Leaf Neighborhood sign)
7. Increased Dumpster Days
8. Public restroom at the park
9. More after school programs
10. Improved relationship with local businesses

While we finally have the long awaited visibility, the timing may be terrible. The city and state are surviving huge budget shortfalls, so we may appropriately be set aside while they scramble for funding police, fire, and our schools. Regardless, this was a huge win for the neighborhood and shows a real partnering of our association with SNI and the newly formed coalition. We're ONE STEP CLOSER!



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SLNA BOARD ELECTIONS ON DECEMBER 11th

Our By Laws require annual elections that are open to all members. Last month's joint meeting between the SLNA and SLC bumped our traditional November elections. Instead, we will vote in the December meeting scheduled for December 11. We have open positions, so all interested people can email dwilkins@slna.org to be placed on the ballot. Here's the best part: we've never had anyone lose. If you're interested, we will find a spot for you! Please plan on attending this meeting and voting. As a bribe, we will be providing cookies.

We also need to update our By Laws through voting that same evening. We need to change Article IV, Section 3 to update the meeting frequency and the election date. Also, currently, Article V, Section 1 limits the number of Members At Large to only 2. We want to open that up to "any number." By the way, our By Laws are available on our website, by selecting the Links button and scrolling down to the Silver Leaf section.

NEW MEETING SCHEDULE

We read all of the emails sent to the SLNA Board members as well as share our conversations that we have with neighbors providing feedback on how effective and helpful the association is. Unanimously, you've said that our information is helpful and our resolution on the few neighborhood issues that arise is quick. However, most people also admit that their personal schedules are too busy to attend the meetings, but they welcome the emails, flyers, and our website. Therefore, we've decided that we will only have formal General Meetings during the summer months, when we typically have our highest attendance. These are conducted at the park, often attracting "drive-bys," either in cars or jogging shoes! So, these will be the General Meetings dates—still the 2nd Thursday of the month:

- May 14th
- June 11th
- July 9th
- September 10th

Note that August meeting is replaced by the National Night Out, which is Tuesday, August 4th.

Your SLNA Board will continue to meet on the second Thursday of the remaining months. While the agenda will be focused on Board decisions, everyone is welcome; we will gladly accept all visitors who take the time to attend.



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FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS HOLIDAY DISPLAYS

Prepare to be amazed! As you know, this Friday officially launches the Christmas season (unless, of course, you shop at Lucky who played carols on Halloween). That means that the Festival of Lights is here! Every year, the neighborhood has increased the number of lights and displays. In the past, we've had several contests where people used our website to vote for their favorite house. For several of us, that alone was a good reason to double our PG&E charges and answer the challenge. Join the fun. This has been a very, very tough year for families around the nation, for our great state, and for this wonderful city. For the next 6 weeks, let's set our troubles aside and look at all of the wonderful things to be thankful for. Let's enjoy the holiday season. As for my family, we plan to be bigger than ever. Not to stir any competitive spirits, but we've already assembled much of our displays and tested the lights. Hopefully, you will need your sunglasses by Sunday night of the Thanksgiving weekend.

We will try to post some of the brightest houses on our website at www.slina.org. People have enjoyed when we've done it before. Stand by...

FOOD DRIVE – SECOND HARVEST

Once again, the SLNA is sponsoring the Second Harvest Food Drive. Starting Friday, November 28th, there will be a food barrel out front of 81 Tennant Avenue (the "Humbug House"). Last year, we filled three 55-gallon drums! Your donations are needed now more than ever. I hope you can find it in your hearts to drop non-perishables in the barrel.

We are also trying a toy drive this year. The SLC has a list of needy families in our neighborhood that need some extra help at Christmas. These toys would be distributed directly to them—our community helping our community. If you'd like to donate a toy, please email dwilkins@slina.org to coordinate the hand off.

DUMPSTER DAY

Thanks to the grant we received from the City of San Jose, we are able to schedule another Dumpster Day. Please save the date: April 25th. Due to limited amount of dumpsters, we will be checking ID's. As the day approaches, we'll define what the rules are, but past events have been incredibly successful. The bins will be staged at the park. They fill up early, so consider this fair warning. Keep an eye on the website for the latest information.



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JUNE JUBILEE (aka Spring Festival)

Back by popular demand... The next festival in the park will be held on Saturday June 27th and is being called the June Jubilee. As always, we will be selling 10 x 10 flea market spaces for a \$10 donation. IMPROVEMENTS: This year, we will obtain the city permits to have "porta-potties" delivered. I'm also hoping that somebody in the neighborhood will be willing to sell food and beverages. Watch for more information later.

David Wilkins