

# Graystone of Almaden Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 41112, San Jose, CA 95160-1112

## March 2009 Newsletter

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### Neighborhood Afternoon Social – Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> **New Event!!**

As you know, our Homeowner’s Association has an important social aspect to it. A few times during the year we get together to meet new neighbors and touch base with ones we already know. Some of these get-togethers are for the kids (Halloween Parade, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade), some are for the adults (Progressive Dinner) and some are for the neighborhood at large (Picnic – cancelled last year due to a lack of volunteers).

Julia A. and Lea K. have volunteered to host an afternoon party from 4 until 5:30 at Julia’s house @ XXXXXXXXXXXX on April 26<sup>th</sup>. First, it will be casual way to meet other neighbors and meet parents who have kids who go to your school or play on the same team. Second, it will be a forum for choosing which other social events we want to hold this coming year. Third, we will be asking for volunteers to help put on the chosen activities. Kids are welcome. So, just walk up the hill (or drive if you don't want to bear the grade on XXXXXXXXXXXX) and meet some new faces. We also would love to hear of some fresh ideas for children, family, and adult activities in our neighborhood. Without help, we will no longer be able to sustain social events.

So, come and meet other neighbors and share a soda or a glass of wine and munch on refreshments. We will keep it short and fun. Please RSVP to Julia A. @ XXXXXXXXXXXX or call her @ XXX-XXXX.

### Boulder Ridge Event Tent Update –It Is Now A Building

As we shared with you a couple of weeks ago, it looks like we have made real progress in our discussions with Rocke Garcia and the County on the Event Tent. Rocke has listened to our concerns and is proposing a building – a building that will shield us from the unwanted sound impact. We met with Rocke and the County at a neighborhood communications meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> and followed up with Rocke in a separate meeting to confirm our understanding. As noted in our earlier email update on the 17<sup>th</sup>,



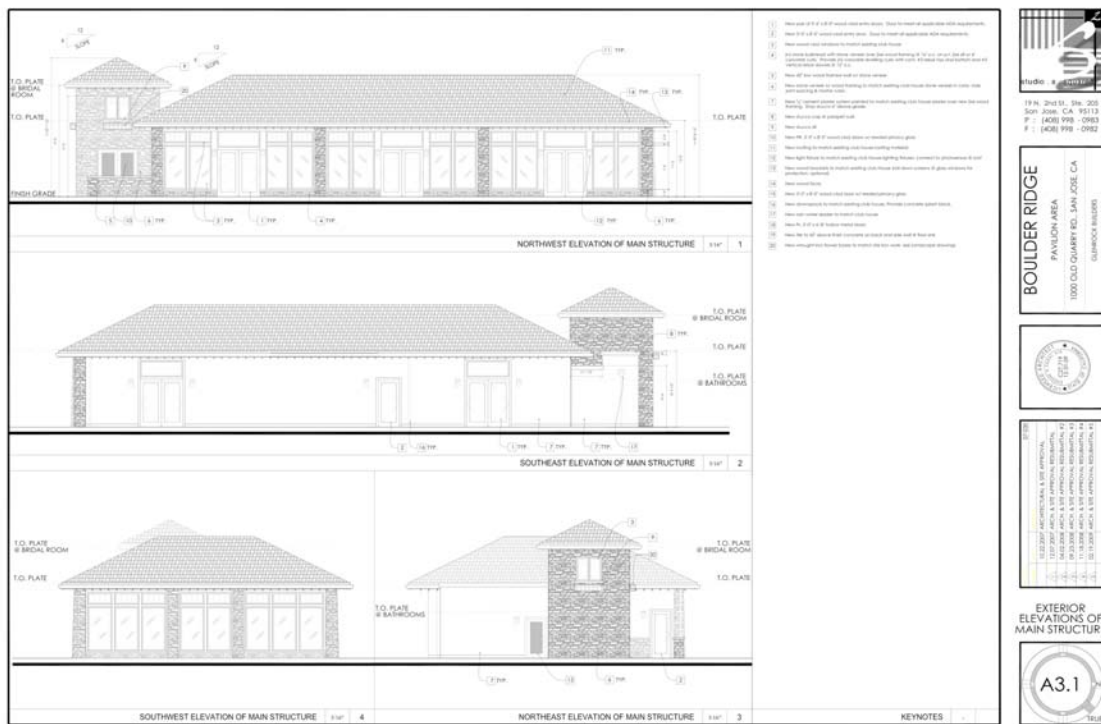
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the proposed building is quite nice. Additionally important is that the windows do not open and the only doors that can be propped open during an event face the clubhouse, away from our neighborhood.

We have reviewed the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents that detail the restrictions to be placed on the facility and have given our input to the County. Most of our comments are clarifications, not major concerns. We want the rules to be very clear and have made suggested edits to that end. The original draft of the CEQA documents are posted on our website ([www.almadengraystone.org](http://www.almadengraystone.org)).

The next step is a public hearing at the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for the afternoon of April 2. Once we get a finalized agenda with timing, we will notify you by email. So, bottom line, our proactive work looks to have paid off. Our ability to organize quickly, draft clear legal arguments and fund outside noise consultants to raise important questions made all the difference. Kudos to Julia Alloggiamento for all her hard work reviewing mountains of old documents and then crafting our legal arguments.



## Boulder Ridge Elevations

Top view faces the clubhouse – doors can be open

Bottom left view faces our neighborhood – windows do not open

Site plan and additional detail is located on our website ([www.almadengraystone.org](http://www.almadengraystone.org))



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## Hillside Improvement Project – Phase 2 Is Now Underway

Phase 1 was the construction of the wall to stabilize the hillside. Phase 2 is to improve the look of the hillside. After talking with a number of landscape contractors, they all pointed out the wonderful natural rock formations high up on the hillside – formations completely covered with brush and weeds. We have now uncovered those rock formations, cutting away huge amounts brush, and do they look great! No amount of money could ever duplicate that look. Wow, what we have been missing for years!

The next step of the project is to do landscape improvements on the lower portion of the hillside. Starting next week, our contractor will be adding a few new trees, building rock wells around the new and existing trees and doing some grading. The final step will be to re-seed the wildflowers in the late fall.

Also, thank to our neighbors the Naffa's @ 6570 Pfeiffer Ranch Road for allowing us to tap into their watering system to water the new trees. Your cooperation is much appreciated, by the new trees and us.



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## **Board Elections – Candidates Needed – We Want You!**

Elections for the 2009-2010 Board of Directors are scheduled for May. Hopefully you see the value of our on-going neighborhood organization. Together, we make a difference. We influence zoning decisions (proposed development on Rocky Crest), development applications (Boulder Ridge Event Tent), maintain all of the common areas and organize events and neighborhood services (dumpster day and the new neighborhood social). New blood is key to our long-term success. Please consider joining our Board. Your new perspectives and ideas are needed. If interested, please contact Scott Sherwood at [scottsherwood@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scottsherwood@sbcglobal.net).

## **Financial Update**

### Expenses-To-Date

Boulder Ridge	\$685
Events	
Progressive dinner	396
Christmas decorations	65
Landscape Maintenance	2800
Hillside Improvement	4250 (\$2000 accrued from last year + \$4250 CAP grant)
New Neighbor program	271
Communications	59
Administration	62

