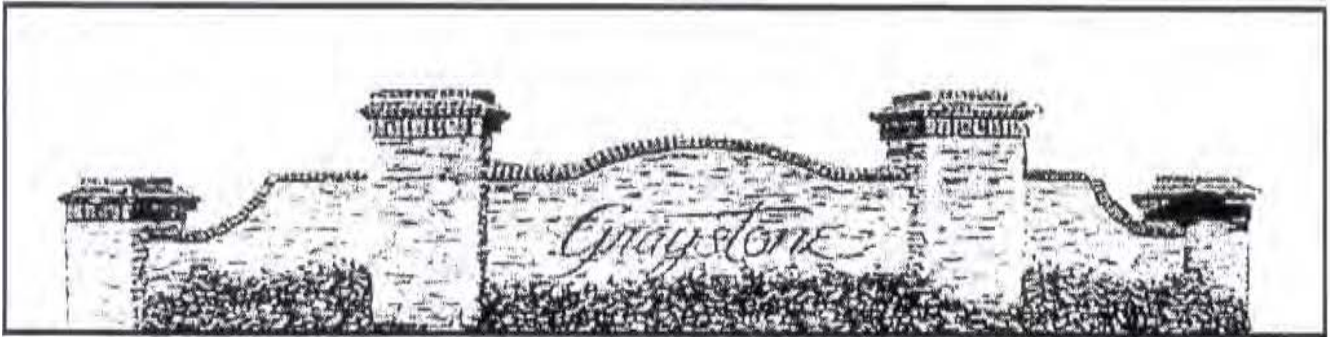


Graystone of Almaden



A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

February 2006

Association Update

by Scott Sherwood, Vice President

In a separate article in this issue, our President, Libby Zwilling, announces her relocation to Arizona. Marty and Libby are retiring to the desert – ah, the good life! As almost all of you know, Libby has been the main “mover and shaker” in our homeowners association since the beginning – an extended contribution over 8+ years. Not only will she be sorely missed, she will be extremely difficult to replace. My guess is that a number of us will have to step up and volunteer for duty to cover all the things that Libby has done for us. Over the next month we will be recruiting, both for our upcoming Board elections and for project leaders. Some of our needs will be:

- Newsletter editor
- Neighborhood directory editor
- Photographer at events
- Progressive dinner coordinator
- Dumpster Day project leader
- New neighbor “meet and greet” /welcome basket creator
- Membership renewal leader
- Board member
- Other items to be sure!

So, please email or call me at scottsherwood@sbcglobal.net or 268-6115 if you are willing to explore how you can participate in our work this coming year. You can also call or e-mail any of our other board members. We really do need your help, now more than ever, since we can't assume that Libby will do it.

Finally, let me share with you an update on our “front entrance” project. As I reported last year, we finished the first phase of this project, re-landscaping the “wall-sign” area at Graystone Lane and Pfeiffer Ranch Road.

The next phase of the project is to extend the retaining wall along the right hand side of Pfeiffer Ranch, which is on City of San Jose property, to eliminate the erosion problem. As you can see, mud slides come down the hill and over the sidewalk and into the street each winter.

We are applying for a CAP grant (Community Action & Pride Grant) from the City of San Jose to help us pay for this project. Potentially the grant will cover 75% of the cost of the retaining wall. The application is due at the end of this month and we should know within 30 days of submission if we will receive an award. The cost of the wall is estimated at \$17,000. Our share of the project cost could be under

\$5,000. Obviously, without the CAP grant, this project is difficult to afford!

The third and final phase of this project is to add a watering system to the hillside and re-landscape, adding trees and wildflowers. Hopefully we will be able to do this work in 2007 with the assistance of a second CAP award.

In summary, the Association is busy helping make this a great neighborhood. But, we are going to need a number of new volunteers to help us keep the Association a viable organization. I hope that everyone appreciates all the services. But services without volunteers don't happen. Please consider exploring how you can help us keep this neighborhood such a special place. Please call.

Farewell from Libby Zwilling

Dear Graystone members, this will be the last newsletter I send out to you. As most of you know, Marty and I are moving to Fountain Hills (near Scottsdale), Arizona.

It has been a privilege living here in Graystone and getting to meet so many of you. We have made friendships here that will last forever. Graystone is the best neighborhood that we have ever resided in, and we feel fortunate to have found our home here eight years ago.

I still find it difficult to believe that I am trading my beautiful back-yard bird sanctuary for an area where my new "neighbors" will be Javelina pigs, scorpions and rattle snakes! We will be renting a home for six months to determine if I can tolerate all of those creatures as well as the heat. Here are a couple of pictures of my pig neighbors:



My leaving will open up a spot on the Graystone Board. This is an opportunity for others to join in and continue to keep our Graystone neighborhood the very best in Almaden. Perhaps one of you would like to pick up the newsletter responsibility. It is not difficult and can be quite fun. Please call Scott Sherwood (268-6115) or Jeanine Smith (927-7505) if you would be interested in doing the Graystone newsletter.

For now, **Karen Sherwood** has agreed to be the neighborhood greeter to the new residents. She and Scott will also be maintaining the phone directory.

I will be back in Almaden for a few weeks in April to pet-sit my favorite dog. I hope to see many of you again when I return. Until then, if you need to contact me, my e-mail is libbyzw@cox.net. My phone number is 408-315-5600.

Welcome New Neighbors

I would like to welcome our newest neighbors to Graystone, **Chris** and **Wendy Bergey**, and their children, **Abby** (6) **Xander** (5) and **Aiden** (baby). The Bergey family moved to their new home at 6536 Stonehill Court. Chris works for Broadcom Company and Wendy is a stay-at-home mom.

Also moving into the neighborhood is the **LaFollette** family, **Michele** and **Tom** and their daughter **Natalie** (9). The LaFollettes moved to 6580 Graystone Meadow Circle. Tom works for Apple and Michele is a stay-at-home mom.

James Lee and **Yolanda Chao** will be moving into my former home at 6523 Deer Hollow Drive along with their children, **Karen** (11) and **Kevin** (5). James works at Sun Microsystems and Yolanda works at the pharmacy at Target.

Last, but not least, welcome to **Nadia Farah** and her children, **Grace** (16) and **Katia** (12). The Farahs moved into the former Scala home at 6570 Pfeiffer Ranch Road. Nadia is active in the worthy cause of school volunteering.

I hope all the neighbors living around our new families will take a few minutes to stop by and say hello.

On behalf of our Graystone neighborhood, I would like to welcome all our new families to our community. I know you will love living in Graystone.

Introducing Graystone Travel

...by Barbara Camacho

Congratulations! You now have a full-service travel agency right in the neighborhood. My name is **Barbara Camacho** and I have been a Graystone

resident since the beginning -- almost 11 years ago. After more than 30 years as a software engineer with IBM, I retired in early 2004 to begin a new career in the travel industry, a field for which I have always had a passion.

The travel industry today is extraordinarily broad and diverse. For the past year and a half I have been educating and training myself in its many facets. Foothill College offers an excellent Travel Careers program that includes five career certificates as well as the Certificate of Proficiency. The curriculum covers travel destinations, ticketing reservations using a live SABRE reservation system (the same used by the airlines), sales, management, group travel and tours. I have earned three of the career certificates and the Certificate of Proficiency. I will earn the remaining two certificates in December, 2005. I have also earned The Travel Institute Destination Specialist certificates for Latin America, Hawaii and France. In addition to my classroom studies I have independently earned specialist certifications for Las Vegas and Cancun.

In case you think that all my experience is academic, I also have practical experience as a travel agent working at All Horizons Travel. All Horizons is a mid-sized, very successful travel agency on Main Street in Los Altos. I had the enlightening opportunity of assisting the owner, Maureen Jones, with researching and arranging itineraries for Australia and New Zealand. I have also attended the ASTA/NACTA CruiseFest conference in Miami where I was able to get first hand experience touring half a dozen cruise ships in the ports of Miami and Ft. Lauderdale. Of course I have also traveled extensively myself in the United States, Mexico, Hawaii, Caribbean, Europe, several cruises and many trips to Disneyworld.

Belonging to the right professional organizations is a critical networking element for all independent professionals and travel professionals are no exception. I belong to the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) and the National Association of Commissioned Travel Agents (NACTA). Because I am doing business as Graystone Travel I am also licensed as a California Seller of Travel and have contributed to the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund which is required of travel agencies in California.

As a result of my education, knowledge, practical experience, and professional affiliations I feel I can provide the clients of Graystone Travel with exceptional vacation experiences and personalized service at extremely competitive prices. Graystone Travel specializes in Latin America, Mexico, Hawaii, Disney, cruises and group travel. Please feel free to contact me in any of the manners listed below to assist you in your travel arrangements.

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Graystone Mail Theft

In late December, at least one of our Graystone families had their mail stolen from their mailbox. They were unaware of this until some time in January when the individual who found their mail – along with that of several other people’s mail – personally delivered it to them. **Our mail carrier, Robert T, has advised me to let everyone know that it is not necessary to raise the red flag on your mailbox when you have outgoing mail.** He will stop at everyone’s mailbox every day. Also, if you

are going to be away, you should either have your mail held or ask a neighbor to bring it in for you.

Homeowner Ads

My name is **Donna Miller**. I offer classes that help you get your pictures organized and into albums for your family to enjoy for years to come. We don’t take pictures to have them just sit in boxes or envelopes. We take them because we want to remember the person or events in the picture. If you are using a digital camera, I can help you get them printed and put into albums.

I offer classes that help you get your pictures organized and into albums for your family to enjoy for years to come.

Crop Tuesdays:

Every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Come to my house and work on your albums and use my cutters and supplies. I will assist you on ideas for your pages.

Thursday Morning Crop:

Every Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
Drop your kids off at school and come work on your albums.

Power Sort Class:

In this class you will bring all your photos that you have in boxes, bags, envelopes, that are hidden in the closet or attic or garage along with all the memorabilia you have and you will sort and organize them into a Photo safe Box. The box will hold up to 2400 photos.

Power Layout Class:

When you have organized all your Photos you are now ready to start putting them into albums. A Power Layout Class helps you layout a complete album.

Kids Club:

This is a great class for children 8 and up. I will teach them about taking care of their photos and they will make a 7x7 album.

Crop Till you Drop:

This is a fun night of getting our albums done. We will have good food, door prizes and lots of laughs.

Let's Get Together

Get four or more friends together and let's make a card that can be given as a gift, put in an office or placed in your albums. Give me a call and schedule now. Don't forget about the free product you can earn.

I have most supplies at my house. If you need anything, please call me at 927-9289 and I can drop it by for you.



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Memory Keeping at Its Best

Homeowner Request

We have several homeowners who are looking for a good handy-man. If you have had a good experience with a handy-man, please let us know. Send an e-mail to Jeanine Smith at smithdsl@pacbell.net.

Item for sale

I have a desk/sewing machine desk for sale. It is an oak-style desk with oak laminate top.

It is the perfect place for hiding away your sewing machine away in one quick move. You can also use it only as a desk. It has six handy drawers. It is in great condition. The original price was \$752, but I am asking just \$99 or best offer. What a great deal! Please call **Beth Bordelon** if you are interested. My number is 323-0334.



Donna Miller has the following items for sale:

A full size futon in good condition for \$75.00.

I also have a king bed headboard/TV Center (electronics not included) for \$800.00, and a clothes steamer for \$50.00. If you are interested, please call Donna at 927-9289.



Neighborhood Service

My name is **Tasha Plummer**. I live on Deer Hollow Drive. Do you need a baby sitter? A pet sitter? A house sitter? Look no further. I am a high school senior at Leland High, I have years of experience with pets and children and I can provide references. My fees are as follows:

Baby sitting - \$8.00 an hour

Pet sitting - \$10.00 - \$15.00 an hour

House sitting - \$5.00 - \$10.00 a day

On the days that I may be unavailable for some reason, my brother, **Tim Plummer** is also available to sit.

If you can use Tasha's service, call her (or Tim) at **323-1567**.

Recommended Business by Peggy Plummer

We recently used the services of Maximum Roof Care Corporation. They are a full service roofing company and also install seamless gutters and have a variety of



products that help keep your attic and home cooler and more comfortable during the summer. We were very pleased with the results of the work that was performed. If

you need for information, please call Peggy at 323-1567.

New Community Business

A fairly new business in our neighborhood is the Unwined Wine Bar & Shop at the PW Plaza. It is a warm and friendly place to visit and have a glass of wine and an appetizer. They are offering a \$5.00 coupon with this ad. Tell them Libby sent you.



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