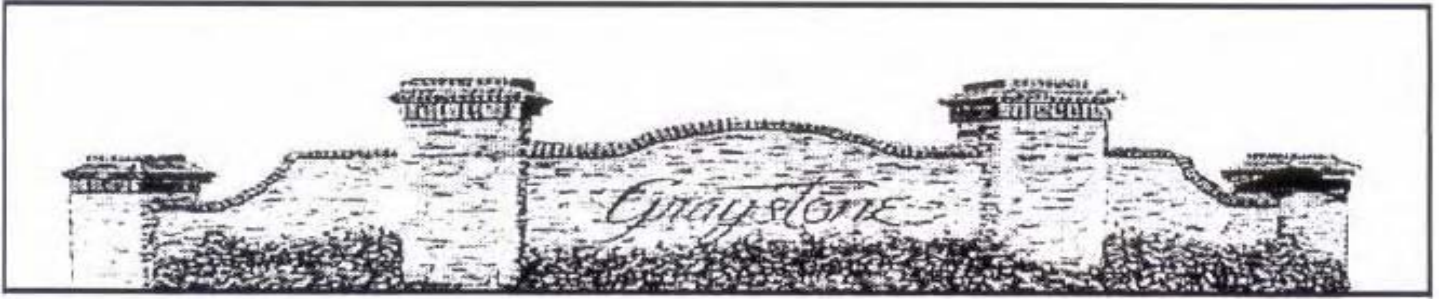


Graystone of Almaden



A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

February 2007

Association Update

By Scott Sherwood, President

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A lot has happened since our last update in the November - December newsletter and they are all good. Here are the details.

Councilmember Nancy Pyle Meeting Scheduled For **March 5th**

Over the past few months we have all been worried about the potential for new homes being built on our much-appreciated open space. We engaged with Nancy Pyle's office (our District 10 Councilmember) and with the San Jose City Planning Department to fully understand the issues and our options. As we reported in our last newsletter, we have received good support from both offices. Many of you asked if you could meet with Nancy Pyle so you could personally express yourself and hear her position on further development/zoning changes. She welcomes the opportunity to meet with us. Both Nancy Pyle and her Chief of Staff, Lee Wilcox will meet with us on Monday, March 5th. We will meet at the Almaden Community Center on Camden Avenue, which is co-located in the new Almaden Library. The meeting will start at 8:00 PM. Light refreshments will be served. So please mark your calendars now. The room is large and we hope that we can show Nancy Pyle a great turnout!

In order to make the meeting as productive as possible, please email me questions/issues that you would like her to address so we can brief her ahead of time. She is anxious to be "fully responsive" to our questions and concerns and would like to do her homework prior to the meeting. I will be meeting with Lee Wilcox on February 28th to provide him with at least some of the topics we would like to cover. So, email me your thoughts quickly at scottsherwood@sbcglobal.net and I will consolidate your thoughts for Lee.

Retaining Wall Completed Under Budget

After more than a year in the planning, the retaining wall along Pfeiffer Ranch Road is now complete. Working through the financing questions, City approvals and permits and finally the insurance issues proved to be quite a challenge. But, we did it. Many of you have commented on how nice it looks. We agree. Not only did we complete the wall, we were able to add decorative rock in the park strip between the street and the sidewalk. And, we came in under budget by \$1,807. Our original budget was set at \$15,269 based upon contractor estimates. The final bill was \$13,462 with \$5,726 coming from the City of San Jose CAP award and the remainder from our dues. We set aside \$5,000 from our 2005 funds and paid the remainder out of 2006 funds.

We want to take this opportunity to thank Loayza's Landscaping for doing a great job. They completed the project on time, on budget and were a pleasure to work with. Additionally, they worked very effectively with the City on the insurance requirements - not an easy task.

If you missed the "construction" work, take a look at the pictures.

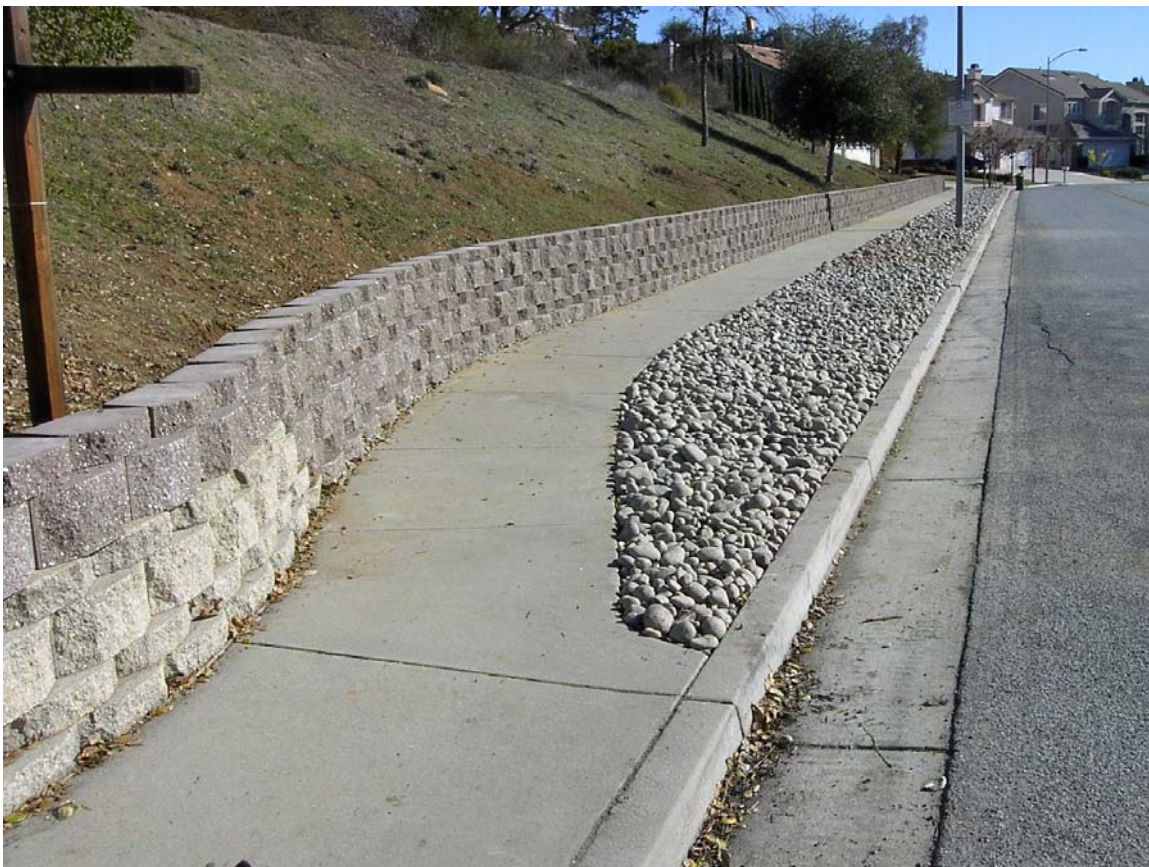
*Work in
Progress:*

Piled High



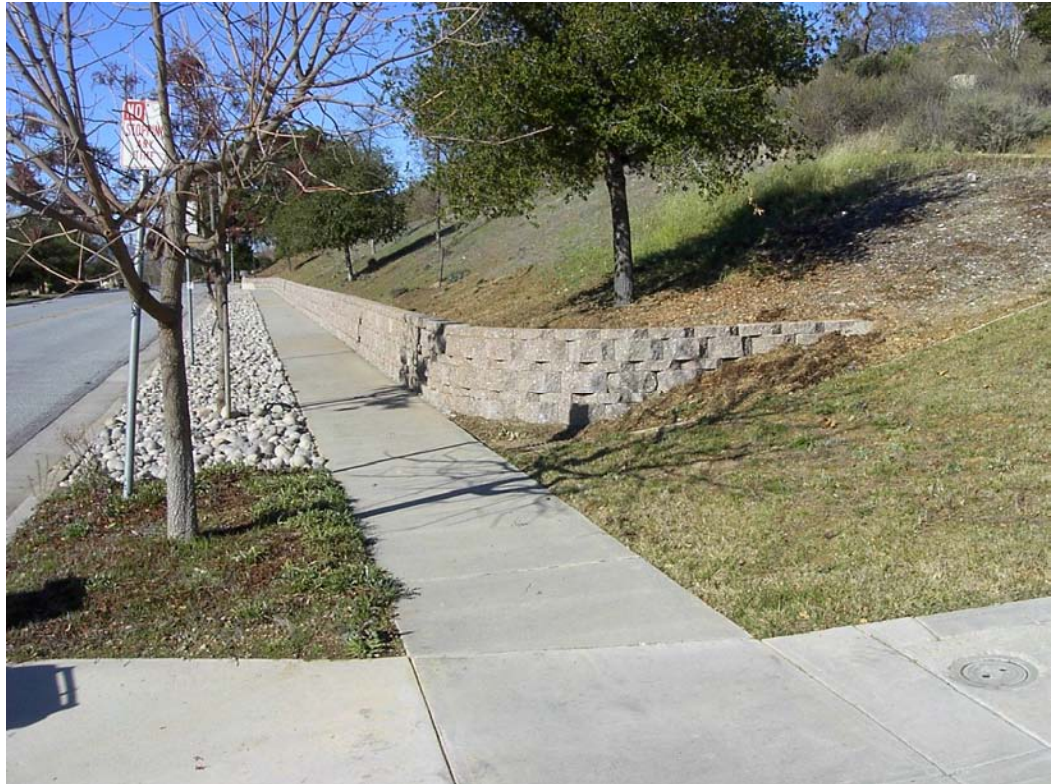
Work in Progress:

Second Pass



Completion!

Completion!



New Board Members Needed

Annually, we elect our new Board. Elections will take place in April for the new term that starts in May. Please consider discussing with us your willingness to serve on the Board. We especially need a representative from Stonehill. And, many of our current Board have served for several years so new blood would be a good thing!

To make joining the Board a bit easier, we will re-create the Member-At-Large position(s), thereby allowing new Board members a year to participate without having to take on a leadership position right off the bat. So please, consider volunteering. We need your help. If interested, please feel free to talk with any of our current Board members to get the “inside scoop”.

Thanks.

Neighborhood Watch Alert

By Jeanine Smith

On December 22, 2006, a car was stolen from Pfeiffer Ranch Road. A holiday party was being held at the Shah home and a 1993 Voyager van which belonged to one of the guests of the party was stolen sometime between the hours of 8:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. The van’s owner insists the van was locked. The van has since been recovered, however, it is still in police custody and the owner does

not know its condition or if any items in the van are still there.

Another incident occurred on January 4, 2007. A 1993 Acura Legend which was parked in the driveway of the Dietz home on Deer Hollow was broken into and vandalized. This occurred in the middle of the day (between 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.) The passenger side window was smashed and the built-in cell phone was removed. The car's battery was dead and the car was unable to start which may be the only reason it was not stolen.

Neighbors - Please be on the alert for suspicious looking characters in the neighborhood and please make sure you always lock your car and do not keep anything of value in it especially if it is visible through a window (i.e. a portable navigation system, cell phone, purse, etc.) These incidents show that no matter how wonderful the neighborhood is, bad things can still happen.

*"The love of our neighbor
in all its fullness simply
means being able to say,
"What are you going
through?"*

Simone Weil

Welcome New Neighbors

By Jeanine Smith

I would like to welcome our newest neighbors to Graystone

Paul and Maria McGuire and their three children, Daniella 9, Dominic 7 and Sean 2. The McGuire's have moved onto Stonehill Drive.

New Neighborhood Greeter Program

By Donna Hecke

As many of you have noticed we have had a lot of new neighbors moving into Graystone. To make them feel welcome and to establish a consistent format we have set up a neighborhood greeter program to connect with them and welcome them into our great community. Each street has an assigned greeter and when they see a new neighbor move in they are responsible for introducing themselves, inviting them to any upcoming neighborhood events, introducing them to the benefits of our Homeowners Association and giving them a gift from either Unwinded or Bloomsters. We will also introduce them through our Newsletter so that all of our neighbors can make a connection with them too.

Thanks to the neighborhood greeters Lea Kammerer, Joan Friessnig, Betsy Witherspoon, Janice Rose, and Karen Sherwood for making our neighborhood a warmer and friendlier place!

Annual Progressive Dinner

By Jeanine Smith

We will be having our annual Progressive Dinner sometime in April or early May. Please look for your flyer on your porch in the next couple of weeks.

Disaster Preparedness

By Jeanine Smith

Thanks to Karen Frederick for alerting us to this course on Disaster Preparedness. Hopefully there will still be spaces available for any who want to sign up. Note there are two dates 2/24/07 and 3/3/07. Sign up deadline is **February 16, 2007**.

<p><i>You Can't Control Disasters. But You Can Control How They Might Affect You By Being Prepared!</i></p>	
	
<p>HOME & FAMILY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COURSE</p>	
<p><u>Please join us for one of our pilot training sessions</u></p>	
<p>When: Saturday, February 24, 2007 Saturday, March 3, 2007</p>	
<p>Time: 9 am to 11 am</p>	
<p>Where: 855 N. San Pedro Street San José, CA 95110</p>	
<p>Register for either session by contacting San Jose Prepared! at 408-277-4598 or email sjprepared@sanjoseca.gov</p>	
<p>CLASS IS LIMITED TO 40 PEOPLE</p>	
<p>PLEASE RSVP NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 16th</p>	

HOME & FAMILY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COURSE

Saturday, February 24, 2007

In Just Two Short Hours, You Can Learn . . .

- ❖ About the hazards we should prepare for in San José
 - ❖ Ways to reduce the risks of loss and injury before disaster strikes
 - ❖ How to create a family disaster plan
 - ❖ How to respond to and recover from different hazards
 - ❖ About opportunities to become more involved and disaster prepared
-

Check In: 8:45 AM

Start: 9:00 AM

Finish: 11:00 AM

Parking: Attendee parking is available in the San José City “C” lot directly across from our facility at 855 N. San Pedro Street, 95110.

Entrance: Access door is located on the north side of the building facing the County Jail.

HOME & FAMILY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COURSE

Saturday, March 3, 2007

In Just Two Short Hours, You Can Learn . . .

- ❖ About the hazards we should prepare for in San José
 - ❖ Ways to reduce the risks of loss and injury before disaster strikes
 - ❖ How to create a family disaster plan
 - ❖ How to respond to and recover from different hazards
 - ❖ About opportunities to become more involved and disaster prepared
-

Check In: 8:45 AM

Start: 9:00 AM

Finish: 11:00 AM

Parking: Attendee parking is available in the San José City “C” lot directly across from our facility at 855 N. San Pedro Street, 95110.

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