



Graystone of Almaden, A Neighborhood Association September Newsletter

Website Online Forums

As recently announced in an email, we have introduced a new service - Online Forums. Online Forums will allow us to share important information regarding topics of interest - topics including recommended household vendors, babysitters and pet sitters, tutors and handyman. Now you can choose a service provider with confidence given that your neighbors have had success. But, to make this new service useful, we need you to share your knowledge by inputting your favorite providers. Who is your preferred handyman, fence repair person, tutor or electrician? We all want to know. Please take a few minutes and log in to our website, www.almadengraystone.org and give us the benefit of your experiences.

Each household that is a current paid-up member of the association has an account. Your user name is your last name, such as jones. Each account's initial password is changeme which you should change. (We have two households named Lo, and so we created accounts lo6426 and lo6568 using their house numbers.)

Click on the FAQ link near the upper right to get tips on how to use Online Forums. In particular, to change your password or e-mail address: (1) Click the "User Control Panel" link near the upper left. (2) Click the "Profile" tab. (3) Click "Edit account settings". (4) You can then change your password or e-mail address.

Give Graystone of Almaden Online Forums a spin and tell your Board what you think!

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Trespassing In Our Open Space

In our last newsletter we discussed the problem of kids loitering, drinking and/or “doing drugs” in the open space. As we noted, **we talked with the police and they requested that we call 311 when we see a potential problem and ask for a dispatcher.** The police will send a patrol car and ask the kids to leave. They are trespassing and are not allowed to congregate. They believe that if the trespassers are frequently asked to leave, they will find a new place to gather. It will be our win and somebody else’s loss.

Feedback from numerous neighbors is that they are calling the police and seeing results! So, keep it up. Call 311 every time you see a group of kids heading into the hills. Let’s move them along to someplace else.

Almaden Burglaries

You may have heard about and/or read about a string of burglaries close to us in Almaden. The Almaden Times and the Almaden Resident both published an article updating us on this topic. In case you missed it, here is a summary.

- 63 burglaries committed in our area between June 2009 and September 8, 2009. Most have occurred Monday through Friday in the daylight hours between 9 am and 5 pm.
- In August, the police arrested three young men tied to the evidence in some of the Almaden burglaries.
- It is believed that other teams, probably youth, are committing break-ins as well.
- Suspects usually knock on the front door and if no one is home gain entrance through the backyard, entering an unlocked side gate or side garage door.
- Police suggest locking your side gates and installing an alarm system. Police said that if potential burglars see a red alarm light that indicates that the alarm is on, they often will move to another house.

Since every Pinn home has an installed security system, we encourage you to activate your system and use it when you are not home. Seemingly, this is one of the best things we can do to stop a burglary.

Dumpster Day Success

Once again, we filled up a dumpster in only 3 hours! Last year, the most numerous item was old patio umbrellas. This year, old student desk chairs took the honor.

Also, we recycled a lot of paint, batteries, florescent light bulbs and e-waste. Thanks to all and especially to Leslie Saviage for organizing the event.



Fire Danger!

The picture to the right is of QuickSilver Park. After 2½ hours Saturday, September 5, firefighters contained a blaze that burned six acres in Almaden Quicksilver Park

About 200 firefighters, along with air tankers, helicopters and bulldozers, battled the fire. It spread uphill but was contained on two sides by park roads, according to Capt. Tom Walker of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. So, just a reminder, if you live next to our wonderful open space, keep the brush trimmed. Also, when you drive on Highway 87, have you seen the blackened hillside? Scary.



Poker Night Anyone? By Greg Turetzky (6547 Deer Hollow Drive)

Like playing poker but don't feel like going to Vegas or even Garden City? How about we start a little Graystone neighborhood poker game? Everyone over 21 is invited to play! I will organize the group and hold the first session, but, to do that, I need to get some information from you the perspective players:

Would you prefer a weeknight or Friday or Saturday?

Do you prefer to start early (7 ish) or stay late (12 ish)?

Do you prefer a small stakes (\$20-30) or more in a night?

Would you like to play Texas Hold'em or a variety of games?

Email me your preferences @ turetzkyg@yahoo.com and I will see what I can put together.

Eagle Scout Project - By Evan Camacho (6508 Graystone Meadow Circle)

For my Eagle Project I am rebuilding and refurbishing three benches from the San Jose History Museum. I am replacing the wood which has rotted away and am repainting the legs of the benches. I am using IPE wood, an extremely durable wood that will not wither for an estimated one hundred years. And, it does not require any special treatment which cuts down on maintenance.

Who Will Benefit?

The San Jose History Museum will benefit because this will make the museum grounds look better. Since many of the benches have splinters and are all but destroyed, it would be uncomfortable and even dangerous for people to sit on them. They could also end up with splinters in their hands or in their bottoms. Considering that the museum has had to lay people off because of lack of funds, refurbishing the benches is a great contribution and a great way of being active in the community.

Project Details

The first step of my project was to take one bench from the museum and gather up measurements and calculations. Once calculations had been collected I established a budget of \$450. Then I bought the wood and other supplies. Southern Lumber cut and drilled all the wood to my specifications. My plan is to construct the benches one at a time so that if I make a mistake, it would only affect one bench. I did all the painting and the assembling was done by my father and me. All of the sandblasting and wood cutting was done by SRS Industries and Southern Lumber, respectively.

Donations Needed

I have raised approximately \$150 for this project, leaving a balance of \$300. I would very much appreciate any donation from my neighbors to help me complete my Eagle Scout project. Nothing is too small! Thank you very much.

Association Progress

We are pleased to report that we now have 110 paid members for this year, surpassing past year. Thanks for that.

We have completed the landscaping clean-up work for this summer and hope you agree that things look better.

We plan to publish a new Neighborhood Directory in October. Right now, several volunteers are working to confirm names and addresses, especially for those homes that are not members of the Association.

Finally, we hope to have our new Online Forum project fully functioning soon - but on that one, remember, we need your help to input the information.