



Graystone of Almaden

A Neighborhood Association

December 2010 Newsletter

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Homeless Man Living Under The Bridge?

Over the past several months, many of you have expressed concerns about a homeless man living under the bridge on Graystone Lane by the creek. Concerns have included safety and welfare issues for the man, trail walkers and neighborhood children. Special thanks to Beth and Malcolm Bordelon for working hard to figure out what they could do to address this problem. It was hard for them to get anyone with authority to help.

Finally, we turned to Nancy Pyle's office to see if they could assist. Joseph Sanchez, Council Assistant to Nancy, has worked to help us navigate the issue and try to get some action. Initially, he referred our issue to the San Jose Police department. Their initial response is printed in full on the next page. Suffice it to say, budget cuts have reduced the police department's responsibility in this area as they now only respond to a crime in progress. We followed up with them to ask that they investigate if the individual is a registered sex offender or wanted by the authorities. The good news is that they did investigate and it seems to be that he is neither.

Finally, we are now working with the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) to address this situation. As we get additional details, we will keep you posted.

Initial Police Response

Ms. Bordelon and Mr. Sherwood,

Councilwoman Pyle's office contacted me regarding the issue with the homeless man who has taken up residence under the bridge at Pfeiffer Ranch Road and Graystone Lane. I understand your concerns and am sorry for the frustrations you have encountered in determining the proper entity to whom you should report the problem. I know Councilwoman Pyle's office explained to you the Water District is responsible for this particular area, and we are no longer doing encampment clean-ups. As a result of staffing cutbacks and reconfigurations, it was necessary to move 35 officers from our Special Operations Division back to Patrol in order to maintain proper staffing levels to respond to calls for service. Unfortunately, this downsizing impacted the METRO Unit whose responsibilities included homeless encampment enforcement and clean-up. It is an assignment that cannot be done by uniformed patrol officers for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is the fact patrol officers lack the specialized training the METRO officers received specific to issues and laws applicable to the homeless (there are civil issues) and, obviously, not being in uniform and in an undercover capacity allowed the METRO officers to infiltrate the encampments and observe arrestable crimes outside of trespassing. Unfortunately, the homeless issue is a social issue we have grappled with for years in this city. There are a handful of shelters available for the homeless, however, many opt not to utilize them. And, quite frankly, some transients *choose* this lifestyle despite having other viable options. Suffice it to say, there are no clear cut answers for the service providers and first-responders that deal with the homeless on a daily basis.

As is the case in your neighborhood's complaint, many homeless encampments are on private property with the vast majority of them on Water District and railroad property, however, there are, also, a few on City-owned properties. We have worked with the City, the Water District and the railroad lines to provide trained officers in a secondary employment capacity to assist them in dealing with illegal encampment issues. All of this information is available on our PD website (sjpd.org). If this encampment is in the creek area, you report it to the Santa Clara Valley Water District Water Shed Hotline at (408) 265-2600 Ext. 2378.

That being said, patrol officers will always respond when crimes in progress are occurring that are related to the encampments, and we will take appropriate action. It is important for the reporting parties to be specific about the crime occurring, such as fights, drinking in public, aggressive panhandling, etc., as opposed to merely telling the call taker that homeless people are living in a certain area. Specific to your situation, has this transient approached any citizens or done anything that would suggest he is confrontational or aggressive, or does he pretty much keep to himself? I know you said an officer has already spoken to him, so I would assume he has been identified and is not wanted or a 290 registrant. In any case, I will notify the district supervisor and insure officers contact this individual and confirm he is not wanted or a sex registrant, and I will let you know the outcome of that contact.

I know this is not necessarily what you want to hear, but, hopefully, I have explained the circumstances--trust me when I say, the fact we have 100 less officers on our Department than we did this same time last year has affected our response to several lower priority but quality of life type calls for service such as what your neighborhood is facing. But, hopefully, I have cleared up the issue regarding whom to contact to report the homeless encampment. I concur wholeheartedly with Officer Garrison regarding the number of people that report the situation to the Water District makes a difference in response--as they say, "squeaky wheel gets the grease." Stress the fact it is in the middle of a residential neighborhood near a playground. In the meantime, keep an eye out, and don't hesitate to call if you believe he is committing any type of crime outside of the trespass situation. And, feel free to call me if you have any questions or wish to discuss or clarify any of the above information.

Take care,

Captain Rikki Goede #3354

San Jose Police Department

Bureau of Field Operations

Southern Division

Police Follow Up Email

Homeless Man Is Not A Sex Offender Or Wanted On An Arrest Warrant

Hi Scott,

The patrol team working that area has made a few trips to his encampment, although he has not been present. However, they were able to locate the individual they believe to be him hanging out at the nearby shopping center. He, of course, denied being the person living at the encampment, although he did say he had been warned by other officers about living there. He is not wanted and is not a sex offender. Hopefully, he will decide to move on his own, and SCVWD will not have to take action. If his behavior changes or any other criminal concerns related to him arise, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Take care,

Rikki

Captain Rikki Goede #3354
San Jose Police Department
Bureau of Field Operations
Southern Division

More Fun Events Are A Coming! Sign Up Now

Wine Tasting ; Connoisseurs Not Required

The First Get-Together Was Great Time To Do It Again on January 29

On a warm Saturday evening in September, fifteen Graystone neighbors gathered in Tim and Kristen Vehling's backyard for some Cabernet wine tasting. With much good humor, participants blindly tasted nine bottles of Cabernet. They tried to find the rogue merlot in the mix, as well as the "cheap" Kirkland brand Cabernet. After quite a bit of tasting, the favorite of the night was a BR Cohn 2007 Cabernet. But, as you can image, all bottles were thoroughly enjoyed and finished! The group deemed the party a success, and agreed to hold more tastings in the future.

Accordingly, Mike and Joan Friessnig will be hosting the next wine tasting on Saturday, January 29. This tasting will compare Oregon Pinot Noir to California Pinot Noir. Each person/couple is asked to bring a good bottle of Pinot Noir (retail price of approximately \$30 -\$50) to share along with an appetizer. Again, we will spice up the tasting by including a few much less expensive bottles. Please RSVP to Mike and Joan Friessnig at jfriessn@pacbell.net and tell him if you are bringing an Oregon or California Pinot.



Poker Night

The First Two Nights Were Great Time To Do It Again on January 21



Twice, the cards have been dealt and the cards have spoken. Winners were quite happy and the losers, well not so much. Once again it will be dealer-choice / small stakes poker with a \$20 buy-in.

Ramon Chea will be hosting this time. So, book Friday, January 21 from 8 until Midnight. To RSVP, email Ramon at ramon_chea@yahoo.com. Bring your beverage and snack of choice.

New Neighbors On Deer Hollow Drive Laurie & Paul Reilly @ 6529

Laurie and Paul moved in on Deer Hollow, buying Ross and Holly Rittiman's home.

Paul works for Kno, a valley start up focusing on building a tablet textbook for the education marketplace. Laurie says that they are enjoying watching the deer, coyote and birds every day outside of their backyard. They have three children, all attending our local schools. Alex is 14. Chris is 11 and Greg is 9.

Stan & Essan Jirman @ 6599

Stan and Essan also moved in on Deer Hollow, buying Satish and Candy Sharda's house.

The Jirman's moved from Santa Clara and chose Graystone because it was such a nice, quiet neighborhood.

Welcome to both families!

Our Major 2010 Project

Trimming All The Trees Along Pfeiffer Ranch Road

Take a look! All for \$2800. Thanks to Bartlett Tree and Kevin Ventura for working with us on the price and the extent of the work. Beautiful!



Before



After

Trimming Pictures Continued



Before



After

Trimming Pictures Continued



Before



After

Moreno Gistain Piano Duo November 11

This event was sponsored by Alex and Yoko Kurosawa and featured two internationally acclaimed pianists from Spain. We all thoroughly enjoyed a wonderful concert in the cozy confines of Diane and Craig Shirley's living room. As you can see from the pictures below, if you missed it, you missed a great time. Thanks again for Alex and Yoko offer to include our neighborhood in the planned events for this accomplished duo and for the Shirley's willingness to host the event.



