

**Graystone of Almaden, A Neighborhood Association
March 2010 Newsletter**

**Who Is Your Neighbor?
New Directory Is Published!**

Inside

- Who Is Your Neighbor?
New Directory Is Published!
- Gravel & Weeds Be Gone -
Landscaping Stonehill & Rocky
Crest
- Who To Call?
Graystone On-Line Forums
- Your Board Is Calling - We
Need Volunteers To Serve
- Association Membership
Benefits All
- Who Da Judge?
Our Own Julia Alloggiamento?



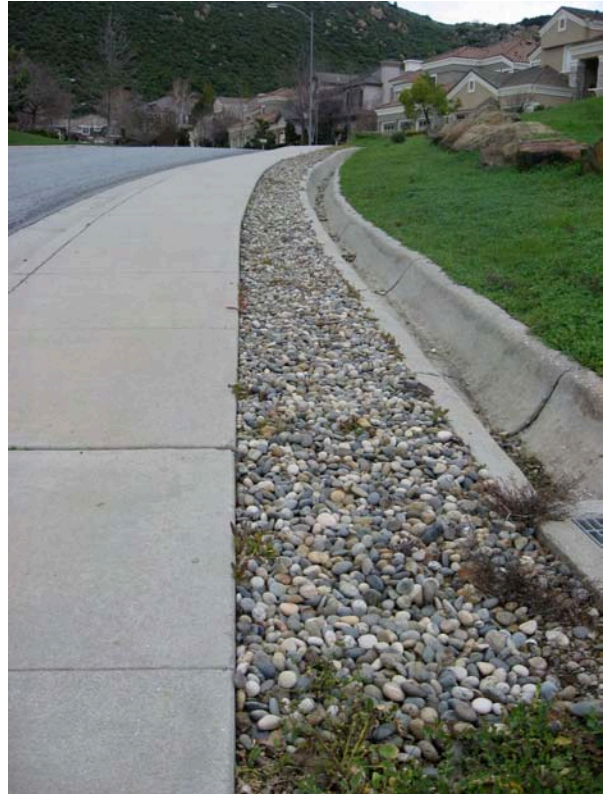
The 2010 Neighborhood Directory is out. A copy of the directory is free to every Association member. We hope you value this service. It takes a lot of work. Special thanks go out to Russ Dietz for volunteering for this task.

If you did not get a copy of the Directory with this newsletter, our records indicate that you are not a member of the Association. Membership runs from May to April each year. If you renew now, you will get a copy of the new directory and your membership will run through April 2011. So, join us. Log into our website almadengraystone.org for a renewal form.

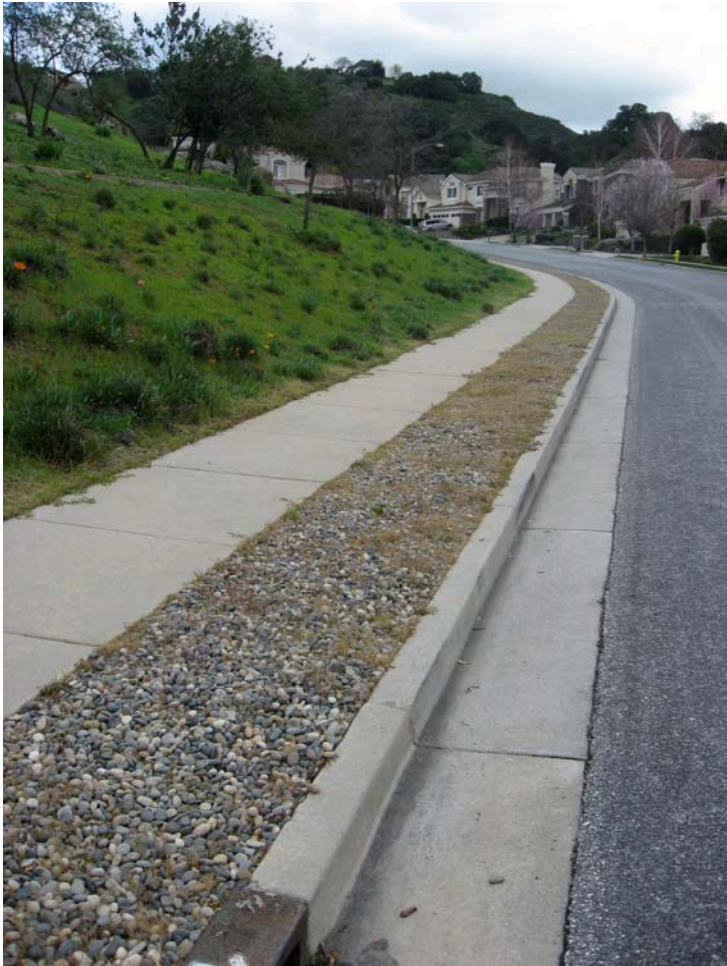
Gravel & Weeds Be Gone!

Landscaping on Stonehill & Rocky Crest Coming Soon

We have once again contracted with Loyaza's Landscaping to help beautify our neighborhood. Loyaza's built the retaining wall on Pfeiffer Ranch Road, added rocks in the park strip (land between the street and the sidewalk) in front of the wall and installed the rock wells and new trees last year. Within the next couple of weeks we will be replacing the gravel in the park strip on Stonehill and Rocky Crest with river rock. Underneath the rock we will add a fabric weed barrier. It should look great. Total cost for this work is \$2500.



Rocky Crest
Prior to landscaping work



Stonehill



Stonehill

Who To Call??

Our On-Line Forums To The Rescue

Need a plumber? Need a handyman? Painter? Babysitter? Tutor? Repairman? We are starting to develop a resource data base in our on-line forums website that can answer these questions. Find trusted helpers who have worked with us and who have done great work. Pretty neat.

Please take a few minutes and log in to our website, www.almadengraystone.org and give us your input.

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.

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.

Board Elections Coming In April Candidates Needed – We Need You!

Elections for the 2010-2011 Board of Directors are scheduled for April. 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, add new landscaping and organize events (progressive dinner) and neighborhood services (dumpster day and directory). New blood is key to our long-term success. Please consider joining our Board. Your new perspectives and ideas are needed. If you are even a little bit interested and willing, please contact Scott Sherwood at scottsherwood@sbcglobal.net to explore the opportunity.

Association Membership Benefits All - Even The 46 That Don't Join

This past year, we had 111 members (households) out of the 157 households here in Graystone - a membership percentage of 71%. As you can see from the financials below, we spend the vast majority of dues on services that benefit all 157 households. Landscaping is by far our biggest expense this year (53%) and is the biggest expense every year. So, to the 46 households getting this newsletter that have not joined the Association, please consider joining. All of us together help make our neighborhood a great place to live.

Dumpster Day	1,038.25
Events	
Garage Sale	53.88
Halloween Parade	285.00
July 4th Parade	139.33
Planning committee	81.41
Progressive Dinner	498.95
Total Events	1,058.57
Landscape Maintenance	2,248.95
Landscape Project	2,500.00
Postage and Delivery	44.00
Printing and Reproduction	189.73
Welcome neighbor committee	45.86
Total Expense	7125.36

Who Da Judge? Our Own Julia Alloggiamento?

Julia, our neighbor, lives with her husband Tom and two children. She has served on our Association board for three years. She proved to be invaluable providing tremendous “pro bono” legal work supporting our position in the debate on the Boulder Ridge Event Tent. Without her strong work, a tent might be looming on the hill behind us with no sound barrier. Now, Julia is running for judge. We thought you would be interested in hearing her own thoughts about this new endeavor.



You are running for Superior Court of Santa Clara County – How do Judicial Elections Work?

There are two ways that someone can become a Superior Court Judge – either by election or by appointment. Which method is applicable depends on when a judge retires. Judges serve a six-year term. If a sitting judge retires on his or her re-election year, the seat is open for election. If a judge retires any other year, his or her seat will be filled by appointment by the Governor.

What qualifications are needed for someone to become a judge?

The minimum requirement to become a judge is that a person must be an attorney for at least 10 years before she is eligible to be a judge. However, to be a well-qualified judge, a person should have a strong educational background, broad legal experience, and the ability to be fair and committed to justice for all.

What in your legal experience makes you believe you are the most qualified candidate for the job?

Approximately 90% of the cases that are handled in Superior Court are criminal cases, and therefore you need a candidate with criminal law experience. I am the only candidate for my seat that has experience in criminal law as well as civil law. I have been employed as a Deputy District Attorney for Santa Clara County for the past 12 years, during which time I have prosecuted thousands of cases, including serious felonies like three-strike cases and homicide. I have had over 40 trials, and have never lost a criminal trial.

Before becoming a Deputy District Attorney, I was a litigation associate at Morrison & Foerster, LLP. At that firm, my areas of practice included matters involving financial institutions, real estate, consumer class action, and intellectual property. Immediately out of law school, I received the prestigious position of Law Clerk for the Honorable William D. Keller in the United States District Court for the Central District of California

What is your educational background?

I graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of California, Hastings College of Law, where I additionally received the First Year Section Scholarship for the highest rank in my law school section and the Milton D. Green Top Ten Citation Award for ranking in the top ten of my entire law school class (7 out of 449 students). I obtained my undergraduate degree from UCLA, where I graduated *cum laude* with *Departmental Honors*.

What makes you unique as a judicial candidate?

I am completely dedicated to law, justice, and service to the community. Over the course of my legal career, I have always sought to serve others, from volunteering in education and indigent services in law school, to seeking out *pro bono* opportunities at Morrison & Foerster, to serving the People of the State of California as a Deputy District Attorney. I have always taken pride in my role as a Deputy District Attorney because I take my ethical obligation to seek the truth and pursue justice very seriously. I understand that it is my duty to truly represent and protect the People of the State of California, both by vigorously prosecuting those individuals who have victimized others, and by ensuring due process and justice for the defendants.

For the last four years, I have had the privilege to serve as a Community Prosecutor. In this position, instead of prosecuting crime after it has occurred, I work in the community trying to prevent and intervene in criminal conduct. While I handle any community concerns, my primary focus has been on youth. I have worked closely with school districts and city and county leaders on policy issues relating to gang prevention and truancy. I have done numerous presentations to youth, their parents and the community about the laws and consequences of underage drinking and driving (including presentations at Leland High School). I also run the law related education program which gives opportunities for fifth graders in San Jose Unified School District to learn about our justice system and take a field trip to visit SJPD and the courts.

However, what I believe has been my greatest accomplishment has been the implementation and expansion of the Parent Project, a program designed for parents of strong-willed or out-of-control teens to give them the tools they need to actually change the destructive behavior of their children, including truancy, drugs and alcohol use, gang involvement, violence, school behavior issues, runaway behavior, suicidal threats, and more. Starting with a single pilot program, we now have over 15 classes countywide in English and Spanish and have successfully graduated over 550 parents with amazing results.

Why do you want to be a judge?

I want to continue to serve the community in which I grew up. I was born and raised in San Jose and am tied to our community. I think that a person with my background and experience combined with my commitment to our community is what our judiciary needs.

How can people get more information or help?

For more information or to volunteer or donate to my campaign, people can visit my website at www.votejulia.org I am also now on facebook and you can find me there under my name or by becoming a "fan" at Julia Alloggiamento for judge (www.facebook.com/votejulia) People can also email me at Julia@votejulia.org The greatest thing that people could do is to spread the word and encourage their friends and families to come out and vote for Julia Alloggiamento for Superior Court Judge on June 8, 2010! Thanks!