



Graystone of Almaden

A Neighborhood Association

January 2013 Newsletter

Inside

• Open Space

• Crime

• Website

• New Board

• Association Update

Vehicle Access To Our Open Space

From the pictures below, you can see that we are experiencing significant vehicle traffic going “off-road” up into the open space surrounding our homes. While we are sure that it is fun to go off-roading, it is not an allowable use of the private open space land under current zoning. Additionally, every spring, young adults drive up to drop off furniture to create a hangout where we strongly suspect that activities include drug use and drug dealing. Plus, the broken alcohol bottles certainly confirm the consumption of alcohol on the property. All in all, not a great situation.

In a effort to make it much harder for anyone to go up into the open space except by foot, we are planning to construct a rock barrier along the corner of Rocky Crest Drive and Boulder Mountain Way. We will “harvest” rocks from the property, including the line of rocks that currently exist, and create a natural looking rock barrier running from the last house on Rocky Crest over to the large outcropping of rock on Boulder Mountain Way. This project should eliminate the vehicle traffic and make general access much tougher. We expect the project to be completed this winter.



Neighborhood Crime Theft & Burglary Safety Meeting This Sunday

We recently sent out an email alerting everyone of the multiple vehicle thefts/break-ins occurring in our neighborhood. We have now become aware of two instances of burglary in our neighborhood too. One burglary took place on Stonehill Drive and one took place on Stonehill Court. Please be aware that while our neighborhood seems safe, bad things are happening. Please keep your eyes open for suspicious activities and call the police if necessary.

Remember, parking your cars in your garage or driveway is better than parking in the street. And, lock your homes when you go out even if it is just for a short period of time and set your alarm when you are away. In one instance of burglary, the home was broken into between the time someone left the home in the late afternoon and the time they returned in the early evening, suggesting someone was watching the home and knew when to enter.

Additionally, we are experiencing increased crime all over the 95120 area, including this past Monday when an elderly couple was tied up while several intruders ransacked their home on Bret Harte Drive. Our councilperson, Johnny Khamis, and the SJ Police are hosting a meeting this Sunday to discuss neighborhood safety, including tips on how to stay safe and protect property.

Meeting Topic: Neighborhood Safety
Place: Amato Pizza @ 6081 Meridian Ave
When: Sunday, January 27 at 4 p.m.

Website/Communications Plans

Our website is getting a makeover!

We are updating our web site (almadengraystone.org) to take advantage of a standard content management system that will include a Twitter feed, Facebook page link and other new features. These new features will enhance our ability to keep you informed, especially when we need to share timely news, such as burglary information and community meetings as discussed on the previous page. We expect this to roll out this makeover by March. Here is a preview:



New Board 2012 - 2013

President	Paul Reilly
Vice President	Greg Turetzky
Treasurer	Ron Mak
Secretary	Scott Sherwood
Member	Julia Alloggiamento
Member	Tim Miller
Member	Janice Rose
Member	Kristen Vehling

Activity/Project Leaders

- Social activities
 - Summer Picnic – Paul Reilly
 - Wine Tasting – Scott Sherwood
 - Poker – Greg Turetzky
 - Progressive Dinner – Kristen Vehling
 - Halloween Parade - Janice Rose/Donna Miller
 - Music in the Park – Paul Reilly
- Website development/promotion – Tim Miller
- Newsletter editor – Scott Sherwood
- Election/Renewals coordinator – Janice Rose
- Landscape maintenance coordinator – Scott Sherwood/Greg Turetzky
- Garage sale/dumpster day coordinator – Greg Turetzky/Janice Rose
- New neighbor greeter coordinator – Sharon Turetzky
- City/County representative – Julia Alloggiamento/Scott Sherwood
- Neighborhood Signs – Julia Alloggiamento
- Tax Returns – Scott Sherwood

Association Update

Prior Year Review

1. Fiscal management – Revenue & Expenses
 - a. Increase membership to 110 from 104. Revenue goal of \$8800
Membership ended at 97. Revenue at \$7708
 - b. Annual expense budget of \$6000 + major project expense budget of \$2000
Expenses came in under budget at \$4997
Capital project funded = \$2711
 - c. Cash reserves targeted at \$5000
Current reserve at approximately \$5000
2. Continue the social activities/ \$2000
 - a. Events
 - i. Progressive dinner
Held; \$534
 - ii. Garage Sale
Not Held
 - iii. Picnic
Held; \$840
 - iv. 4th of July parade
Not held
 - v. Halloween parade
Held; \$105
3. Maintain core services
 - a. Dumpster day/ \$1000
Held; \$600
 - b. Landscaping/ \$2500
Completed; \$1500 (note: prior year was \$3300 – timing change)
 - c. Directory/ \$500
Printed; \$353
 - d. Newsletters
Completed 3
 - e. New neighbor greeting/ \$500
Unknown
4. Stay connected with the City of SJ on the General Plan update and open space issues
No significant activity
5. Investigate and develop a pro-active website program/ \$500
 - a. Blogging & Recommended services
Implemented; usage is minimal; major problems exist
 - b. Renewal process/credit card payment
12 PayPal renewals, down from 33 PayPal renewals in prior year; cost per renewal \$2.62
Spent a total of \$31.44
6. Major Capital Project
 - a. None scheduled, funds accrued - \$2711
 - b. Prior year, completed Pfeiffer Ranch Tree Trimming for \$2500

2012- 2013 Goals/Budget

1. Fiscal management – Revenue & Expenses
 - a. Increase membership to 105 from 97. Revenue goal of \$8400
Update: Renewals at 108! Goal exceeded.
 - b. Annual expense budget of \$6200
 - c. Major project expense budget of \$2200 (\$4911 total with \$2711 + \$2200)
 - d. Cash reserves continue to be targeted at \$5000

2. Social activities / \$2000 (\$1600)
 - a. Progressive dinner; \$600 (\$534 - prior year expense)
 - b. Picnic; \$1300 (\$840) (*Increased budget to include ice cream cart*)
 - c. Halloween parade; \$100 (\$105)

3. Maintain core services / \$4200 (\$2964)
 - a. Dumpster day; \$600 (\$600)
 - b. Landscaping; \$2500 (\$1500)
 - c. Directory; \$0 (\$353)
 - d. Newsletters
 - e. New neighbor greeting; \$500 (\$??) (*Janice to talk with Unwind to check billing issue – she charged baskets and we do not seem to be getting billed*)
 - f. Administration; \$600 (\$511)

4. Stay connected with the City of SJ on the General Plan update and open space issues
 - a. New District 10 Councilperson connection
Update: Met with Johnny Khamis post election to start dialogue
 - b. Boulder Ridge Spa plans

5. Other
 - a. Re-invigorate Forums/change the form and format
 - b. Incorporate social media
 - c. Analyze the PayPal renewal system
 - d. Website improvements/keeping content current

6. Major Project Options
 - a. Hydro seed the hillside with ground cover/flowers
 - b. Modest tree trimming on Pfeiffer Ranch
 - c. Barrier rock wall on Rocky Crest & Boulder Mt Way