



Santa Teresa Foothills
Neighborhood Association
117 Bernal Road - #70-273
San Jose, California 95119



ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 1

www.STFNA.org

Spring 2004

Neighborhood Meeting Thursday, March 25th

The Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association will have a general meeting on Thursday, March 25th at Sakamoto Elementary School, 6280 Shadelands Drive (corner of Shadelands Drive and Colleen Drive). The meeting will begin at 7pm and all in the neighborhood are invited and encouraged to attend. The following topics will be covered:

- The San Jose Police Department will present information on the Neighborhood Watch Program and answer various questions about safety & crime in the neighborhood.
- Council member Forrest Williams will discuss how the city's budget issues are impacting our neighborhood.
- Current Association activities will be discussed including an update on hillside protection and an update on park strip landscaping along Curie Drive.
- We'll be soliciting input from the community for future meeting topics.
- The new co-principals of the Santa Teresa High School, David Riley and Kathy Prash, will introduce themselves and discuss the landscaping changes to the High School fields that will be taking place this summer.

The last meeting we had was October and included a presentation by Craig Breon, Executive Director of Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. Craig's presentation was informative and entertaining and was well received by all in attendance. If you would like more information on the Audubon Society, please visit their website at www.scvas.org.

NEW SIGNS

Help us Promote our Meetings!

The Neighborhood Association has purchased lawn signs to help inform the neighborhood when our meetings will be held. The signs are the same type of signs that you see for politicians, and can be easily placed and removed.

If you would like to volunteer to place a sign in your yard a week or so before the upcoming meetings, please let us know, and we'll provide the sign. To volunteer, e-mail contact@STFNA.org or call Matt Freeman at 408.229.9543.



Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association Spring Newsletter

*Preservation of the Santa Teresa Foothills . Creation of a public trail along the Coyote-Alamitos Canal
Public Education and Awareness . Safe Neighborhoods . Hillside Development Enforcement*

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

- Thursday March 25th Association Meeting Details
- Hillside Development Update
- 'Clean A Creek' Project
- New Curie Landscaping
- Local School Issues
- Join our Association... Here's How!

CALENDAR

Mark Your Calendars! Join Us Thursday, March 25th for a Neighborhood Meeting

7:00 pm
Sakamoto Elementary (corner of
Shadelands Dr & Colleen Dr)

Thursday, March 11th
Board Meeting
7:00 pm Room 8
Southside Community Ctr
(Cottle & Poughkeepsie)

Saturday, May 15th
'Clean A Creek'
Volunteers Needed!
E-mail contact@STFNA.org
to sign-up

Board of Directors Meetings

Board of Directors meetings are now held on the second Thursday of each month at the Southside Community Center beginning at 7:00 pm. Check the Association website for any changes to the schedule (www.STFNA.org).



Volunteers Needed for 'Clean A Creek' May 15th

The Neighborhood Association will be working with the Creek Connections Action Group to clean the Canoas Creek on May 15th, and are in need of volunteers to help with this effort. Refreshments and other give-aways will be available!! Canoas Creek runs parallel to Santa Teresa, starts around Cottle, passes behind Santa Teresa High School before running under Snell, then crosses Santa Teresa close to Chesbro. If you are interested in volunteering, please e-mail contact@STFNA.org, or sign-up at the Association meeting on March 25th. Additional details will be posted to the website and e-mailed as they become available.

Hillside Development:

Nakashima Subdivision

Many in the neighborhood were concerned about the proposed subdivision of the hillside property at the end of Snell, which is owned by the Nakashima family, and voiced these concerns to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, the County Planning Office, and the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority. The result of this activity was opening a dialogue with Mrs. Nakashima, and importantly, we have established a positive working relationship. She recognizes the importance of the foothills and is not interested in doing anything that would adversely affect the surrounding area. We look forward to working with her in the years to come!

The County Board of Supervisors approved the project on December 9th with support from the Association. Mrs. Nakashima will construct only one 1-story house that will be screened from view from the valley floor. Conservation easements will be placed on those

portions of the property that are habitat for the endangered Bay Checkerspot Butterfly. Mrs. Nakashima also agreed to work with the Open Space Authority regarding future conservation easements and the City of San Jose regarding a future trail easement.

Our members' letters, e-mail, and presence made a difference. Thanks to all who contributed!

Concern Over OSA Acquisition Decisions

The Neighborhood Association has been active in trying to convince the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (OSA) to acquire property in the Santa Teresa Foothills to help preserve that land and avoid any further development. Several members of the association have spoke on the neighborhoods behalf at OSA board meetings. John Hesler and Matt Freeman, the Vice President and President, met with the OSA's acquisition committee on the subject in January.

Unfortunately, the acquisition committee does not see this hillside as a high priority for acquisition at this time. They expressed concern with the liability of owning the land, and a belief that the threat of development is not imminent.

Our best hope for convincing the OSA that the hillside is important for acquisition is to encourage the city and county governments to direct the OSA funds that they control to be utilized for this purpose. For those that are concerned about this issue, we will be providing names and addresses of the appropriate government officials to contact in the near future.

*We now have over 260 families who have signed up as members of our association.
Thanks for joining!*

Permits Taken Out For New Homes

Many of the cul-de-sacs in the North Western part of the neighborhood have remained undeveloped for the last 30 years, but that may change in the next couple of years. Grading and/or retaining wall permits have been applied for which are the predecessors to the actual building permits. It is known that permits have been applied for along Foothill, Colleen, Glenview Dr., Rocky Glenn Court, and Glendora Court. As more information becomes available about this potential construction, we'll post it on our website.

Neighborhood Beautification:

Curbside Park Strips Along Curie

If you regularly walk or drive along Curie, you've probably noticed that several of the lots owned by the city are littered with broken glass and other debris. This is especially true of the strips of land between the sidewalk and street, known as "park strips" to the city. On behalf of the neighborhood association the board has lobbied the city to not only clean up five hazardous areas between Snell and Cottle, but also improve the land by providing landscaping that will discourage littering and improve the beauty of the street.

Cindy Rebhan, City of San Jose Park Strip Project Manager, met with the board in February to give an up-to-date status on the project. Forrest Williams has also been keeping in touch with Sarah Hensley, Director of Parks and

Recreation on the matter. The next step is for the Neighborhood Association to apply for grants from various agencies to help pay for the work that needs to be done. The goal is to begin the project this Summer – it will require that we provide volunteer manpower hours so our membership will be called upon to volunteer throughout the process and work along side city personnel (power wash, paint, plant.) Once completed, we will need volunteers to help water the trees for the first year as there are no water systems under these park strips. Once they take root, the water overflow from the hillside will carry them through to maturity. If your house borders one of the park strips, a member of the board will be visiting with you shortly to explain how this will impact you directly.

We're excited about the "new look" to the neighborhood!

Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association Membership Application and Renewal

Date: _____

Check here if this is a renewal.

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City / Zip code: _____

Phone: _____

Mail form and enclose check payable to:
Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Assoc.
117 Bernal Road - #70-273
San Jose, CA 95119

Or you can register and pay online:
Go to www.STFNA.org

We ask for a donation of \$10/year per household to maintain membership . . .

Please accept my tax-deductible donation of: \$10 \$20 \$50 \$100

OR accept my donation of \$ _____



Please tell us which issues interest you the most:

- Foothills Open Space Preservation
- Coyote Alamitos Trail
- Public Education and Awareness
- Safe Neighborhoods

Other: _____



We are currently in the fourth year of our existence, and the funds needed to keep our website up and publish ongoing newsletters are low. We are requesting that all members who haven't paid their 2004 dues please send in \$10 per year per family so we can continue our efforts. **Thank you!**

Santa Teresa High School Field Use

After a year of heavy restrictions on use of the Santa Teresa High School Fields, the School Board returned authority to the high school's administrators. Administration authority is standard for High Schools in this District (East Side Union), but for the previous year, the policy was controlled by the school board instead of Santa Teresa administrators. At the request of many in the neighborhood that live close to the school, our board of directors has taken the position that these fields are a vital community resource that should be open

to all members of the community on a reasonable basis. Therefore, the Neighborhood Association supports the administration in regulating use of the fields. Our support on this issue was voiced to the school board at a public meeting in January.

During this process it became evident that the new school co-principals, Kathy Prasch and Dave Riley desired to reach out to the community and for the school to act as good neighbors. They will be attending our March 25th neighborhood meeting to introduce themselves and fill us in on the construction that will be taking place at the school this summer.

Randol Elementary Saved

Randol Elementary School was on San Jose Unified's "hit list" of 12, but when the list was narrowed to three and Randol was not on it, supporters breathed a sigh of relief.

On March 4th the San Jose Unified board of trustees voted 3-2 to close Erikson, Hammer and Hester schools. San Jose Unified School District is facing a 10 million dollar budget deficit. The closings are part of a plan to balance the budget.



5632 Santa Teresa Blvd.
www.scvymca.org/southvalley
408.226.9622

Join your local YMCA for Healthy Kids Day on Saturday, April 3rd from 10am to 2pm. This free community event is your way of getting to know your local YMCA. Fun activities include arts and crafts, fitness demonstrations and more!



We build strong kids, strong families & strong communities.

saberlight
design and website services

Website design, development, hosting, and newsletter courtesy of SABERLIGHT Design and Website Services.

www.saberlight.com
Call 408.857.5600 for a Quote