



Almaden Neighborhood

Volume 7, Issue 4, September 17, 2002

Next Meeting:
Oct 2, 2002 7:00
P.M.
(Pizza 6:45 P.M.)
Community
Center
5730
Chambertin Dr.

AWNA Web Site:
www.awna.org

AWNA Board:

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Nick Labosky
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Neighborhood Task Force on Mail Theft

By Mike Kubiniec

Nancy Sakal is heading up a new task force on mail theft within our neighborhood, but specifically for residents who reside in the Tresor Development. She would like to hear from anyone from all three developments who have had problems with mail theft. These personal experiences are going to be used to show cause for locking mailboxes community-wide in Tresor. Her e-mail address is dsakal@earthlink.net and phone number is 266-8797. Specific to the residents of Tresor: This task force is also going to investigate the different styles and prices of mailboxes that are acceptable to the US Post Office once it is agreed that the community is willing to pay the special assessment that will be necessary for every homeowner. Fifty percent agreement is necessary to go ahead with this project.

New Mail Drop Box Has Been Installed - Use It or Lose It!

By Mike Kubiniec

The post office has installed a blue collection box on Chambertin Drive just south of the 4 way stop intersection. The mail is picked up Monday - Friday at 5:00 PM. This provides all of us another available option for our outgoing mail. It is NOT RECOMMENDED that you place your outgoing mail in your street mailbox, and especially leaving it overnight! Our neighborhood has had numerous instances of mail theft, and if you place your outgoing mail in your mailbox, you are unnecessarily making yourself vulnerable for identity theft. A special thank you to neighbors Nancy Sakal and Jeffrey Frenster for all their efforts in disseminating mail theft information throughout our neighborhood and for coordinating with the postal service for getting this collection box installed. Now the easy part: USE IT! If we don't, we have been informed that the box will be moved to a different location.

Gudalupe Creek Trail Meeting Sept. 24th

By Dede Smullen

Pat Dando, councilwoman for District 10 is holding a community meeting on the Guadalupe Creek Trail Plan at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 24 at the Guadalupe Elementary School. The meeting will give residents a chance to provide input on the trail design, parking and public access. This stretch of the trail will run right behind our homes along Coleman Road from Almaden Expressway to Camden Avenue. Guadalupe Elementary is located at 6044 Vera Cruz Dr.. (See Flyer Page 3.)

Community Calendar

- **Almaden Wine and Art Festival (Fingerprinting for Children) Sun Sept. 22** (See District 10 News, Pg. 10)
- **Volleyball in the Park-Lower Lawn Area Mon Sept. 23 & 30th** (See Pg. 8)
- **Guadalupe Creek Trail Meeting: Tue Sept. 24 6:30 p.m..** (See Above, and Flyer Pg. 3)
- **Almaden Winery Evening Mothers Group: Sept. 26, Oct. 10, Oct. 24,** (See www.almadenmothers.org for more info.)
- **Walk to End Domestic Violence Fri October 11, 8:00 am** (See District 10 News. Pg. 10)
- **Almaden Counselling Service 10k and 2 mile Run Oct 13** (See District 10 News, Pg. 11)
- **Neighborhood Halloween Party: Sat Oct 26th** (See Fall Events Pg. 2)

Future AWNA Meetings:

- Wed October 2**
- Wed December 4**

Wed. October 2, 2002 AWNA Meeting Agenda - Draft

1. Introductions
2. City of San Jose Update
3. Communications Committee Report
4. Park Committee Status Report
5. Neighborhood Projects/Activities
 - Youth Lot Sub-Committee
 - Fall Events
6. Misc./New Issues

Articles Wanted for the next
AWNA Newsletter
Submit them to
dede_smullen@yahoo.com by
October 14, 2002

Fall/Winter Events

By Amy Pascal

The 7th Annual AWNA Halloween Party & Parade

Mark your calendars now for this year's Halloween bash. The festivities will take place on Saturday, Oct. 26th, 10 AM – 2 PM on the Almaden Winery Park lower lawn. If it rains, we'll be inside the community center (5730 Chambertin). As in

past years, we'll have a costume contest, children's parade, entertainment, food and fun. This year all profits from the event will go towards the Almaden Winery Park Youth Lot. If you would like to help with this year's event, please contact **Amy Pascal at 978-6586** or atpascal@aol.com. We especially need folks to help on the day of the event. We also need donations for our major fund-raiser, which will be a raffle or silent auction.

Christmas Tree in the Park

We hope to have a decorated Christmas tree in the park again this year. However, the event is dependent on when park construction completes. Heading up this year's event (if it happens) will be Nancy Sakal.

Christmas Trees on Our Lawns

Each year the homes of Vintage and Vineland have the opportunity to have a live tree (approx. 5 ft.) placed on their lawn for decorating. The neighborhood looks gorgeous all decked out with Christmas trees and the more that participate, the better it looks! Tim and Valerie Orsley will be coordinating once again this year. The preliminary delivery date is Saturday, November 30. If you would like to help with the delivery and setup of trees, contact the Orsleys at 265-4768 or vtek@postoffice.pacbell.net. Further information including the cost will be provided in an upcoming flyer.

Holiday House Decorating Contest

Once again, we'll be having our Christmas house decorating contest. Last year our neighborhood looked fantastic with some folks really going for it! Heading up this year's event will be Cathy Cassetta.

Note: These events are part of the AWNA calendar because at some point in the past someone came up the idea and was willing to make it happen. If your holiday tradition is unrepresented or otherwise have an idea for a neighborhood event and are willing to help make it happen, you are encouraged to contact Mike Kubinieć, AWNA President.



If you have items to donate for silent auction, raffle or prizes for the Halloween Party please Contact Dede Smullen at dede_smullen@yahoo.com, 448-4084.

More details for all events will be available in upcoming newsletters



Baby Nathan is Home!

Meet our newest (and smallest) neighbor.

Nathan Erik Huget was born by emergency c-section on August 16th and spent the first few weeks of his life in intensive care. He is gaining weight and was released from the hospital on Labor Day Sept. 2. Mom Kristen is very busy at home caring for the special needs of such a little guy but still had time to send us this announcement. Nathan's family, friends and neighbors welcome him home.

Congratulations Huget Family!



Insert Guadalupe Flyer Herte

Insert Park Plan Here

Almaden Winery Park Update

By Amy Pascal

Current Construction

As I'm sure you've all noticed, our park is under construction! The city is implementing the Almaden Winery phase II park plan as illustrated in the drawing labeled "Almaden Winery Park Improvements Layout Plan".

For those of you who lived in the neighborhood in the spring of 2001, you may remember that a neighborhood-wide ballot was circulated to select one of three plans. The resulting phase II plan was a compromise between the two most popular plans. The phase II plan includes:

- A large lawn area
- A cement walkway surrounding the upper park-an extension of the walkway near the tot lot
- Entrances to the Upper Park and Lower Park from the Chambertin side (Both entrances are wheelchair, stroller, and bike accessible.)
- Lighting located throughout the park (Note: Lighting is intended for nighttime security and will not be bright enough for nighttime play. This is per city regulations.)
- Additional seating
- Additional shrubs and trees

Construction is due for completion in December.

Park Projects List Update

About a year ago, the Park Committee conducted a survey to see what additional park improvement projects the neighborhood wanted to see implemented after the completion of phase II. The top 9 items are as follows:

1. Renovate historic light fixtures/add to park lighting
2. Add irrigation to the planter strip along Chambertin (Note: Currently there is no irrigation for plants on the parking lot side of the 2 story brick building, and volunteers from our neighborhood must do the watering)
3. Add play structures (Youth Lot) for older children (ages 6-12 yrs)
4. Provide more shade for the tot lot area
5. Renovate the rose garden areas in the lower park area near Le Franc
6. Renovate the apple tree/picnic area in lower park area near Chambertin
7. Renovate the Louis Benoist gardens in lower park area near Le Franc
8. Renovate landscaping around the Community Center and parking lot
9. Install more benches at tot lot

Item 1, the park lighting, will be completed as part of the phase II plan. We will not be renovating the existing historic light fixtures. Instead we will be installing new light fixtures in a style of the same era.

Item 2, automated irrigation of the Chambertin planter strip, and item 8, landscaping around the Community Center parking lot, will both be completed as part of the Almaden Winery Community Center renovation. See the summary of the August 7 Awna General meeting in this newsletter for more details on the renovation.

Item 3, add a youth lot, is being addressed by the Youth Lot Project Committee. Item 4, provide shade for the tot lot, and item 9, install more benches at the tot lot, may also be addressed by the youth lot project.

Items 5-7 are not currently being addressed.

As part of last year's survey, the Park Committee said they would do a new park projects survey every year. Given the pace at which we are able to address the project list, they have decided to wait another year to repeat the survey instead of doing another at this time. Any issues with this decision may be addressed to Amy Pascal, 978-6586 / atpascal@aol.com, or any other member of the Park Committee.

For detailed results of last year's park project survey, see www.winerypark.com.

What is the Park Committee?

The Almaden Winery Park Committee, a committee of the Almaden Winery Neighborhood Association (AWNA), is a volunteer committee with the following responsibilities regarding the Almaden Winery Park:

- To speak with a single voice for the community to the city for funding purposes;
- To ascertain what the community needs and wants for the park;
- To ascertain if these needs and wants are feasible;
- To provide for continuous improvement in community quality of life and home values (\$\$);

See the "Youth Lot" section Page 6 for a detailed update and for information on how to provide input via an online survey as well as current Fund Raising efforts.

Continued...See Park Update on Page 6

Park Update Cont. From Page 5

By Amy Pascal

- To provide a think tank for creating ideas and discussing possibilities.

The current park committee members are Mike Kubiniec, Joe Cassetta, Bryan and Shelly Shisler, Clarice Simmons, Amy Paschal, Nancy Sakal, Nick Wright and Nick Labosky.

Youth Lot

A little over a year ago, the Youth Lot Committee, a subcommittee of the Park Committee, was formed to investigate possible funding for adding a Youth Lot to Almaden Winery Park. A youth lot is a play lot with structures intended for ages 6-12. The committee members are Amy Paschal, Clarice Simmons, Dede Smullen and Sally White.

As mentioned in the summary of the August 7 Awna general meeting, the city now has \$50,000 available for us to plan the Youth Lot. However, before we can make use of the money, the city would like to see evidence of neighborhood commitment to the Youth Lot through fund raising. If we can convince her of our own resolve in fund-raising, Councilwoman Pat Dando has agreed to provide funds for completion of the youth lot before she leaves office.

Fund-raising has been delayed thus far due to the lack of 501c3 nonprofit status which would allow us to take tax deductible donations and receive grants from corporations. We now have 501c3 status with the state but our application for federal status had been running into road blocks as discussed in the general

meeting summary. As a backup plan Clarice Simmons has been working with Las Madres, a local mother's organization, to set up a 501c3 fund for the park under the Las Madres umbrella. Either way, we are hoping to have non-profit status available for youth lot fund raising some time this fall.

In the meantime, the City would also like to know what type of youth lot structures the neighborhood is interested in building. We will begin rough planning so that we are ready to begin construction plans when sufficient funds become available. The first step is to determine what elements the neighborhood would like to see in the youth lot. To collect this input, we had a Youth Lot planning meeting on Sept. 10, 2002 and will be collecting input online (see announcement below).

The Youth Lot Committee is also beginning to plan fall fund-raising events. One such event will be the 7th Annual Halloween Party & Parade. All profits will go to the Youth Lot. Look for more details in an upcoming flyer. Some of our neighbors have agreed to provide matching funds for money donated to the youth lot fund at the Halloween Party!

Another event is the Discovery Toys / Creative Memories product sale going on now through Oct. 26th. (See announcement below for more details.)

Help Create Our Neighborhood Youth Lot!

Tell Us What to Build:

What elements would you like to see in a neighborhood youth lot? Let us know! We invite you to give your input online at http://www.almadenmothers.org/youth_lot_feedback_form.htm.

The input period is Oct. 1st – Oct. 26, 2002. Note that this web address and review period supercede those given in the flyer distributed August 29. We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience. There will also be opportunities to give input at the October 26th Halloween Party and Parade.

Help Us Raise Money:

Creative Memories / Discovery Toys Youth Lot Fund-raiser

Now Through October 26

Buy any product from the current Creative Memories (scrapbooking supplies) or Discovery Toys catalogs and all profits (approx. 30% for Creative Memories and 20% for Discovery Toys) go towards the Youth Lot Fund. It's easy. Contact Amy Paschal at 978-6586 or atpaschal@aol.com and request delivery of a catalog and instructions to your door. You may also order products at the Halloween party on October 26th.



Picnic in the Park

Photos by Carmella and James Graham



A special thank you to the following neighbors and local vendors for their generous donation to our silent auction at the AWNA Block Party. Without their support we would not have been able to raise \$1500.00 to support our event and park. Thanks also to those neighbors who were so generous with their bidding and donations!

Raging Waters, Six Flags Marine World, San Jose Sabercats, Chuck E. Cheese's, The Tech Museum, Stampin Up, Bella Mia, Camera Cinemas, Outback Steakhouse, Hayes Mansion, City Diner, Hobbee's California Restaurants, Burger Pit, Chevy's, A.P.Stumps, Los Gatos Brewing Company, Le Papillon Restaurant, Mc Donalds, Subway Sandwiches, Almaden Valley Athletic Club, Mirassou Vineyards, Nancy & Douglas Sakal, Grgich Hills Cellars, Erin & John Barclay, See's Candy, Heather & Chris Neal, Carmella & Jim Graham, San Jose Sharks, Michelle Wolf, The Pampered Chef, Safeway, Costco, Rob & Kate Morris, Downey Savings, Chili's Restaurant, Cup & Saucer Restaurant.



Carmella's Real Estate Corner

September

By Carmella Graham



In my last column, I asked for any questions or comments regarding real estate be sent to me for discussion. I did receive the following question from one of our neighbors...

We are planning a landscape project and were debating about including a large fountain. However, with the cost involved, we would like to take the fountain with us when and if we move. Is this possible or would we have to leave it with our house?

You bring up a very interesting point for discussion. Generally a fountain of this size would require special plumbing and electrical lines to be installed for its use. Once these lines are installed, the fountain becomes "real property" rather than personal property and would be required to stay with the home when sold unless the following were to occur. If the plumbing and electrical were disconnected prior to the home being placed on the market or the fountain were to be excluded from the sale of the home by a specific sentence in the purchase/sales contract. If the fountain was, in fact, portable or just plugged into an outlet on the patio it would then be considered personal property rather than real property and would not have to be excluded from the purchase contract. For clarification between personal property and real property, the best example of personal property would be a refrigerator, washer or dryer. They are simply plugged into a wall outlet and can be removed with no damage or repair required. A stove, light fixture or window coverings would be considered real property and would stay with the home when sold. My advice to my clients is to remove and replace any light fix-

tures, drapery or real property prior to listing the home for sale to prevent any problems and misunderstandings with prospective buyers.

The real estate market continues to evolve and as of press time, has moved into a real buyer's market. Currently, there are over 3300+ homes listed for sale in the Santa Clara County. Of this total, 300+ homes are located in the Almaden & Cambrian areas. Cambrian (our area) has over 155 homes on the market. These figures do not include the condominiums or town house listings. I'm sure you have noticed that the homes in our neighborhood are still selling but at a much slower pace than in prior months. With the continued fluctuation in the stock market the buyer's have taken a very cautious and very selective demeanor.

I look forward to your continued questions or comments for my future columns. Please send your questions to Carmella Graham, 1498 Bordelais Drive or email to: cgraham@apr.com

Volleyball In the Park Continues through the fall.

By Dede Smullen

The volleyball net will continue to be set up around 6 p.m. on Mondays through September until the light holds out. We are always looking for more players. Please come and join us in the lower lawn area next to the winery building. Contact Dede Smullen at 448-4084 for more information. All levels welcome.

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"I'll take care of your pets while you're away"

Legislators push to clean up summit

U.S. WOULD PAY TO RESTORE OLD BASE AT MOUNT UMUNHUM

Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2002, as published in the *San Jose Mercury News*

By Paul Rogers, Mercury News

With Silicon Valley spread below on one side and Monterey Bay in the distance, U.S. Rep. Mike Honda on Tuesday stepped up efforts to win federal funding for a long-stalled toxics cleanup at an abandoned Air Force base on the summit of one of Santa Clara County's landmark mountain peaks.

"This will be a great education spot," said Honda, D-San Jose, at a news conference atop Mount Umunhum, located on San Jose's southern edge. "It will also offer people a reprieve from cell phones and computers. This is a great place to slow down."

Named for the Ohlone Indian word for hummingbird, the 3,486-foot peak towers above South San Jose and Los Gatos on the chaparral ridges between Lexington Reservoir and Almaden Quicksilver County Park.

Despite thousands of acres of public parkland on its slopes, most Silicon Valley residents know "Mount Um" only for the abandoned Air Force radar building that looks like a sugar cube on its summit. The Air Force closed the Almaden Air Force Station in the early 1980s and sold the peak in 1986 to a government parks agency, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. Since the late 1970s, the open space district, based in Los Altos and funded by property taxes, has been buying land across the mountain. It now owns more than 15,000 acres, open for hiking, biking and horse riding.

But the Air Force base site has sat like a ghost town, off limits to the public because it contains crumbling buildings and Quonset huts contaminated with asbestos, lead paint and solvents. Honda and other South Bay leaders say the mountain could one day become a South Bay version of Marin County's Mount Tamalpais — a sanctuary for wildlife with miles of trails. But the peak's signature attribute, its summit, with stunning views of the Santa Clara Valley, San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay, will remain closed until somebody cleans up the toxics and demolishes more than 50 condemned building.

Honda called on the U.S. Senate to include language in the 2003

defense spending bill next month that would finish cleanup work on top of the mountain. In June, he inserted language into the House version of the defense bill, calling for the Army Corps of Engineers to give priority to Mount Umunhum among the \$212 million allotted for military base cleanups next year. The total cleanup is estimated to cost \$6 million for the Mount Umunhum summit, said Craig Britton, general manager of the open space district. That would include demolishing the buildings and removing the toxics.

San Jose City Councilwoman Pat Dando said Tuesday that she used to tell her three children in the 1970s during wintertime that twinkling lights on the mountain top were from Santa Claus. Dando attempted to drive to the summit in 1975 with her husband, Bob,

and their children for a picnic, but was turned away at the Air Force gate. Now, she said, Mount Umunhum should join Mount Hamilton, Mount Diablo and Mount Tamalpais among the great Bay Area mountain parks.

"There is wildlife here, from golden eagles to mountain lions to steelhead," Dando said. "As we live hustle-bustle lives, it is nice to have these types of places to come to. "What a legacy to leave our children and grandchildren," she said. "If we don't do it, then who will?"

For years, the district has not made the cleanup a top priority as it acquired land for parks on the ridges from Los Gatos to Burlingame. And it has been rebuffed by Army Corps of Engineers officials, who removed underground fuel tanks and old transformers, but balked at helping with the asbestos and lead paint.

On Tuesday, a spokesman for U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said the senator, a member of the conference committee that will hammer out the defense budget, will push to include language in the final bill that would make Mount Umunhum a federal cleanup priority.



Mt. Umunhum as Seen From Chaumont Dr.. Photo by Dede Smullen

See Umunhum pg. 11

District 10 Neighborhood News

By Councilmember Pat Dando
Summer 2002

City Budget Benefits Community

In June, the City Council approved the City's 2002-03 Operating Budget. The budget contains investments that will enhance city services and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. I am excited to share with you that many of my recommendations for our City and District 10 have been funded. These projects and programs result from suggestions and input from the community. Listed below are a few of my budget requests that will improve our neighborhoods, support strong communities and public safety:

****New District Ten Community Center:** Renovations to the Almaden Winery Administration Building in the Blossom Hill/Chambertin neighborhood are now fully funded. The building will be retrofitted and converted into a multipurpose community center with preschool & adult classrooms, a kitchen, and a gathering place for neighborhood events.

****Enhanced Senior Citizen Services:** Funding has been secured for a Senior Citizen Care Advocate. This person will provide services as transportation, delivered meal programs, housing assistance, information about medical care, legal assistance, elder abuse, and home care for our most fragile seniors.

****Fire Fighters to Receive Additional Training:** Expanding the training we offer to our fire fighters so they can better respond to incidents involving hazardous materials, search & rescue, and airport emergencies has been approved.

****Improved Park Safety:** Enhanced park ranger patrols have been included in next year's budget. A greater level of security will help keep our trails & parks clean, safe, and accessible to every San Jose resident.

The 02-03 budget calls for improvements to several District 10 parks. In the coming year, Meadows, Parkview I, Parkview II, Glenview, and Carrabelle will be renovated. Planning for Meadows & Parkview I has already begun. Community meetings on the other parks will take place in late summer & early fall. For more information, please contact my office.

New Lifesaving Program Launched

Working together, Supervisors Blanca Alvarado & Liz Kniss, the San Jose Fire Department, and I announced new measures that the City of San Jose and Santa Clara County will implement to educate residents and emergency medical personnel on the risk factors and symptoms of stroke. The program consists of two major components: public outreach and education seminars to educate residents on the warning signs, symptoms, and treatment of stroke; and specialized training for emergency medical personnel to better serve stroke patients.

Neighborhood Library News

New Library Needs a Name

On June 22nd, ground was broken on the new neighborhood library on Blossom Hill Road. Currently, I am looking for input on the library's name. Some suggestions include "Vineland Branch Library," after the former school located at the site, "Almaden Quicksilver Branch Library," after the local landmark, & "Blossom Hill Branch Library," after the surrounding area. Your input is important to the identity of our new community library. Please e-mail your suggestions to me at pat.dando@ci.sj.ca.us.

Fingerprinting for Children

Vanished Children's Alliance and officers from the Oakridge Community Policing Center will join me in the District 10 booth at the Almaden Art & Wine Festival to provide free fingerprinting. This will be a great opportunity for you and your children to meet the police officers that work in your community. The festival is scheduled for Sunday, September 22nd at Parma Park from 10:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m..

Walk to End Domestic Violence

As the Chair of the Domestic Violence Prevention Task Force, I continue to work with City and County leaders to raise public awareness on how to prevent this family problem. One of the major events the

District 10
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Jo Coffaro
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Room 600
San Jose, CA 95110
277-5251
fax: 271-9807

email:
pat.dando@ci.sj.ca.us

If you would like further information on the items discussed in this update or to confirm the dates, times, & locations of the events listed, please contact Pat Dando's office at (408) 277-5251.

*District 10 News
Continued on Page 11.*

District 10 News - Cont.

By Councilmember Pat Dando
Summer 2002

Task Force sponsors is the Public and Elected Officials Walk to End Domestic Violence. This walk is designed to bring community leaders from all 15 cities in Santa Clara County together to declare that we will not tolerate domestic violence anywhere in our County. Please join me and other walkers at San Jose City Hall on Friday, October 11th at 8:00 am to send this message across Silicon Valley. The walk will be followed by breakfast sponsored by San Jose Police Officers and Santa Clara County Sheriffs at the Police Officers Association Hall (1151 North Fourth Street, San Jose).

Almaden Valley Counseling Service 10K and 2 Mile Run

I hope you can join me for the Almaden Times 10K and 2 Mile Run which will be held on Sunday, October 13. This race serves as a major fundraiser for the Almaden Valley Counseling Service, a nonprofit organization that provides counseling to people of all ages in our community. While the counselors see a growing number of senior citizen needs in our community, they continue to focus on young people through the successful "Counselors on Campus" program. With your support, the Almaden Valley Counseling Service will continue to provide great service for our community as they have for over 20 years.

Neighborhood Beautification

Each year I work with San Jose Beautiful to provide daffodil bulbs to homeowner associations, schools, and other interested groups. This program allows neighbors to come together with the goal of making their community a little brighter in the spring. If you are involved with a group that might be interested in planting daffodils in your neighborhood, please contact my office by mid-September. This year's daffodil planting will be held in early November.



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Umunhum Cont. From Page 9

By Paul Rogers, San Jose Mercury News

"When the Army Corps is doling out money, this should go to the top of the list," said Feinstein spokesman Scott Gerber. "It is important for California and the Bay Area."

From 1957 to 1980, more than 120 Air Force employees lived at the summit's Almaden Air Force Station, scanning the coast for a Soviet attack. One former resident recalled the adventures of living on a remote mountaintop. "It was small-town America with great views," said Jack Smith, 45, of Cambria. Smith lived at the summit in 1971 and 1972 when he was 14 years old. His father was an Air Force medic. He recalled 25-cent movies on Friday nights at the base gymnasium, knee-deep snow drifts in the winter, and the one bus a day that took him down to Leigh High School and back. "Making the top a park is a wonderful idea," he said. "There's a fabulous view, and great opportunities for cycling, hiking and horse riding."

To find out more about the Friends of Mount Umunhum, a new group that is advocating for public access, call Elaina Cuzick at the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District at (650) 691-1200, extension 511.

Contact Paul Rogers at progers@sjmercury.com or (408) 920-5045.

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June, 1 2002 AWNA Meeting Highlights

By Amy Pascal

Guests:

Jo Coffaro, Assistant to Councilmember Pat Dando; Karina Vargas and Shawn Weymouth of "Children & Families First"

City of San Jose Issues

Jo Coffaro, assistant to District 10 councilmember Pat Dando, was present to give us an update from the City of San Jose.

A project is currently underway to renovate the Old Almaden Winery building, as the city calls it. (This is the 2-story building at 5730 Chambertin, not the historic winery building located on Treviso and Le

Franc). Once the renovation is complete, the building will officially become part of the community center system. The renovation includes seismic retrofitting for earthquake preparedness, various rooms available for community programs, room rentals available for private parties and

a kitchen area. The renovation will also include automated irrigation for the Chambertin planting strip near the building. This watering is currently being done by hand by volunteers from the neighborhood. Important date in the renovation project:

- End of August, 2002: designs complete
- December, 2002: construction plans complete
- January, 2003: project out to bid
- April, 2003: construction begins
- May, 2004: renovation complete

Daffodil Days is Saturday, Nov. 2 this year. Each year the city of San Jose gives out free daffodils to anyone who is willing to plant them in a public spot. AWNA volunteers have planted daffodils in the park in past years. This year the deadline to apply for daffodils is Sept. 1. Mike Kubiniec, AWNA President will let Jo know how many daffodils we need this year.

The city currently has \$50,000 available for us to plan the Almaden Winery Park Youth Lot. Before we can make use of the money, the city would like

to see evidence of the neighborhood commitment to the Youth Lot through fund raising. The city is willing to match our fund-raising, dollar for dollar. Completing planning for the Youth Lot, i.e. getting to the point of having construction plans complete, will cost \$50,000 - \$75,000. Our neighborhood, therefore, needs to raise \$37,500 (assuming the high end) to create a plan for the Youth Lot.

AWNA Picnic Committee Update

The AWNA held a BBQ picnic in the park this past June. The financial bottom line: we took in \$1650 and spent \$2000, a net loss of \$350. Some lessons learned:

- Communications to the neighborhood need to be clearer and more complete. For instance, the initial flyer did not mention the location of the picnic.
- We needed more volunteers to help the day of the event. For instance, there was no one available to coordinate the children's events planned such as races and contests.

Communications Committee

Web Site: A new web site template has been created and is online in place of the old web site. The committee now needs to add content.

Some folks in the neighborhood have expressed concerns about web content security. For instance, a personal phone number could be found through a Google search. As a temporary measure all such content has been removed from the web site. We had planned to discuss alternate security options at this meeting but no subject matter experts were present. This issue will be further addressed by the communications committee.

Newsletter: Article input is due to Dede Smullen by August 12th. Amy Paschal volunteered to write an article about the construction that's currently going on in the park.

Distribution List: Currently the official AWNA e-mail distribution list is owned and maintained by Mike Kubiniec and stored on his PC. The communications commit-

See additional Pictures and Thank you to Donors from AWNA Picnic on Page 7.



Picture by James Graham

Post Meeting Update: The daffodil planting for our neighborhood this year is at risk of being canceled do to lack of volunteers and a co-ordinator. If you would like to make this happen contact Mike Kubiniec ASAP. Daffodils must be ordered by mid-September.

Minutes of June 1,
2002 Meeting
continued on
Page 10

AWNA NEWS

What is AWNA?

Please submit any articles for the next newsletter to dede_smullen@yahoo.com by October 14, 2002. Every effort will be made to include all print ready articles.

By Mike Kubiniec

The Almaden Winery Neighborhood Association (AWNA) is:

- 368 homes that make up Vintage (151), Tresor (160) and Vineland (57).
- In existence to help to make our community a better place to live.
- Run completely by volunteers. No one receives any monetary compensation for the time, talent or energy contributed to the community.
- You! You are a member by virtue of living in our neighborhood.
- Financed entirely by volunteer donations.

The AWNA is NOT:

- A Homeowner Association.
- Almaden Winery Homeowner Association. Fees collected by the Tresor Homeowner Association do not go to fund projects sponsored by the AWNA. Vintage and Vineland do not have homeowner's associations.
- Supported by mandated monthly dues or membership fees.
- Currently a nonprofit organization -- but we are working on it!

June 1 Meeting Highlights Cont. From Page 12

By Amy Pascal

Nonprofit Status

tee suggests that we instead use a distribution service like Yahoo groups. This would give us more features, better reliability and allow multiple administrators. Mike is interested in the idea and will set up a test distribution list to try out the features. Clarice Simmons (who was not present) was volunteered to help Mike with the set up.

Children and Families First

We had guest speakers, Karina Vargas and Shawn Weymouth of "Children & Families First" of Santa Clara County. They came to tell us about their organization and get input from us about what family services in the county are working and what services are not working or missing. For more information about their organization, see www.santaclarakids.org or call Shawn Weymouth at 408-289-5330.

Park Committee Status

Construction of the Phase II park plan is currently underway. The Park Committee has been working with the city to make some changes to the chosen plants. Concerns include removing poisonous plants from the plan and ensuring trees planted will produce substantial shade in less than ten years. Nancy Sakal reported that we have gotten at least one concession and that is to change out some of the trees and replace them with shade producing sycamores such as those lining Chambertin in Tresor.

We have had nonprofit (501c3) status with the state of California since last spring. Mike Kubiniec is still working on getting us nonprofit status with the federal government. Our application has been returned several times with requests for more information. The latest issue is that the person processing our request seems to think we would be more suited for classification as a Social Welfare Organization rather than a Charitable Organization. Such classification would mean that we would be designated nonprofit (501c4) but would be unable to take tax-deductible donations. A suggestion was made to separate concerns, having one entity for efforts concerning the park (which would be 501c3) and another for the social aspects of the association.

We ran out of time and did not address all items on the agenda.

Community Bulletin Board

Art in the Park - September 28th at the Wilwood Park in Saratoga; 10 AM to 4 PM. Contact Janet Gold (Krause) from our neighborhood at JGoldkraus@aol.com if you have questions.

Found - Lift Master Garage Opener. Found in the park in the vicinity of the tot lot. To claim, contact Michael Kubiniec at 445-2644, mtkubiniec@cs.com

Wanted - Do you know where we in Vintage can purchase the plastic light covers for the fan/lights that are in our non Master bathrooms? Mine has heat damage. Please call Karen at 267-6529.

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As you know, the Almaden Winery Neighborhood Association does not collect any dues and has no mandatory fees. All community-wide activities and this newsletter are funded exclusively through your individual contributions. This newsletter would not be possible unless we received donations. Won't you consider making a donation? \$5, \$10, \$20 or whatever you chose is fine. Please make your check out to the Almaden Winery Neighborhood Association, and complete the following:

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Thank you very much for your generosity!