



*Future Meeting:*

*October 5, 2004*

*December 7, 2004*

*Pizza 6:45 P.M.*

*7:00 P.M.*

*Community Room  
at the  
Vineland Library*

*AWNA Web Site:  
www.awna.org*

*AWNA Board:*

*Mike Kubiniec,  
President  
5666 Brionne Drive  
445-2644  
mtkubiniec@cs.com*

*Carmella Graham:  
Vintage Rep  
269-3197  
cgraham@apr.com*

*Nancy Sakal  
Tresor Rep  
266-8797  
dsakal@earthlink.net*

*Nick Wright  
Vineland Rep  
265-2983*

*Directors at large:*

*Joe Cassetta  
cassetta@us.ibm.com*

*Nick Labosky  
nick\_labosky@hp.com*

*AWNA Webmaster  
Paris Deiker*

## AWNA Third Annual Picnic & Potluck a Success!

*by Jim & Carmella Graham*

Despite almost record breaking temperatures, 200+ residents of the Old Almaden Winery enjoyed a relaxing day at the park with friends and neighbors and



watched as the ground breaking ceremony took place for the new Youth Lot.



The 3rd annual picnic and potluck, "The Endless Summer" was held on Saturday, August 28 for the residents of Tresor, Vintage and Vineland. The day began early for many of the volunteers, setting up tables and chairs, icing the beverages, filling swimming pools and prepping the barbecue grills for the impending crowds. Shortly after 11:00 am, the centerpiece of the picnic was delivered, a gigantic inflatable water slide! With temperatures hovering in the mid-nineties this proved to be the most popular attraction of the day. Neighbors began arriving shortly after 11:30 bearing food items to share and patio umbrellas to provide much needed shade.

Vice Mayor Pat Dando arrived to provide an official beginning to the construction of the Youth Lot. As many neighbors are aware, this has been an ongoing project for many residents of the Old Almaden Winery. After a brief speech and some very positive comments about the neighborhood, the ground was broken and the barbecues fired up. Also on hand to provide additional diversion to the event were the San Jose Mounted Police and local fire station complete with truck. A disc jockey provided back-ground music for the



afternoon.



The remainder of the day was spent sampling the delicious salads, side dishes and dessert items prepared by our neighbors, relaxing and meeting new friends and searching for shade. A large thank you to the following individuals who assisted in organizing this event: Jim Graham, Nancy Sakal, Dede Smullen, Briana Soss, Amy Pascal, Kim Paoli, Carmella Graham and Jennifer Burrows. Additional thanks to the volunteers who assisted with the setup and break down of the chairs and tables, without your help there would have been no

annual picnic!

**All photographs are courtesy of Jeanne Lewis, Staff Writer for Times Community Newspapers, Times Media Inc.**

## Neighborhood Bits & Bytes...

### Mulching Party!

By Nancy Sakal

Friday morning, July 9th, the community got 20 yards of free mulch from the landfill to use in our park. I arranged for two time periods for mulching but we ended up with three different segments. Saturday morning we had four women, one man and two children working to replant the missing plants and mulch the planting area. The volunteers were Nancy and Douglas Sakal, Catherine (sorry, I didn't get the last name) from Vintage, Joanne Smith and her seven year old grandchild Rachel and Alla Volochino and her eight year old grandson Vladimir. It was good to see a new young face who basically filled and dumped the wheel barrow for one side of the planting area.

Two of my friends and neighbors (Jo Ann Windsor and Geoff Marks) decided they wanted to work Sunday morning instead of Sunday afternoon, and I went with them on Sunday morning to give them the tools they needed and do a little raking. They had the best motive for going in the morning. We had a pizza date after the Sunday afternoon mulching but they decided they would rather mulch in the morning and have dinner ready for Douglas and I after we got through on Sunday. Sunday morning they mulched the Chambertin strip from the mailbox to halfway past the vineyard.

Sunday afternoon the mulch was becoming considerably further away from the area we were mulching. Douglas went up to water the new plants and then joined in the more fun activity of shoveling mulch. Joe Cassetta, James Takihiro, Lori Logan, Douglas and I were there for about 2 1/2 hours. The distance between the mulch and where we were mulching became further and further and James had a great idea. He said if we had a truck we could shovel it full and drive to the next area. Since James had been running with his wheel barrow full of mulch, he was "inspired". We loaded up Joe's pick-up (overflowing) four times and finished the job.

It's because of the new people joining in like James and Catherine that keeps us old-timers inspired. People move or have new children and can't always help so I always greet new participants with great enthusiasm so we can continue to keep our neighborhood beautiful.

### Vineland Library Fall Book Sale

Friends of Vineland Branch Library, 1450 Blossom Hill Road, will be having our Fall Book Sale on Saturday October 30th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All proceeds are used to enhance the Vineland Library programs and services. Programs such as the Summer Reading Club, Mother Goose and Family Story Times, the Teens Reach program and Puppet Shows have benefited from the book sale. There will be a large assortment of paperback and hardbound, fiction and non-fiction. Come and stock up on some great books for the fall and winter and help support our library. If you are interested in volunteering to work at the book sale, contact Rena Gooding at 408-264-8918.

*Please Join Us...*

*AWNA Meeting, Tuesday, October 5*

*Pizza Social at 6:45 pm Meeting Begins at 7:00 pm*

*Vineland Library Community Room*

*District 10 Councilmember Candidates Rick De La Rose and Nancy Pyle will be in attendance to answer your questions*



### Editor's Comment

Two cars caught my attention this month. Both were family vans, one with double car seats in the back seat, the other, driven by a person in a scout uniform. Both vans "cruised" through the intersection at Treviso and Chambertin with a gently "tap" on their brakes.

I can't help but wonder if these semi-stops are only because it is their own neighborhood or carry over to the car-pool situation.

The Editor

## Endless Summer Raffle a Success - Thank You to All Participants

By Briana Soss

Thank you to everyone who participated in the raffle held at our Endless Summer Picnic on August 28th, either by donating items or by purchasing tickets. We appreciate all of the support we received for this as one of our final fundraisers for our park's Youth Lot Fund.



Our raffle donors included: Cathy Cassetta — Tabard Theatre Society, Roxanna Croteau — Partners in Play, Christine Lavazza — Mary Kay Cosmetics, Trader Joe's on Almaden Expressway, McDonald's on Blossom Hill Road, Whole Foods in Los Gatos, Bonfante Gardens, The Jungle, Amy Paschal - 1 hr massage certificate & restaurant certificate, Dede Smullen - Wine, Champagne, and Toys, and Briana Soss - See's candy & restaurant certificate.



Congratulations to all of our winners:

- Every Girl's Dream (Barbie Grand Hotel): Alec Marshall
- Every Boy's Dream (Hot Wheels set & Super Van City): Sheila Triska
- "For the Guys" BBQ basket: Mike Kubinieć
- Trader Joe's Italian Food basket: Rusty Galnik
- Date Night basket: Chris Sorci
- Treat Your Family basket: Christine Chiou
- Family Fun basket: Liz Cabral
- GRAND PRIZE: Carolyn Cooper

Thanks again to all of our neighbors who supported this raffle fundraiser. We look forward to seeing the fencing later this month when construction begins for our new Youth Lot.

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## Multiple Volunteers Wanted!!!

Nancy Sakal will be moving some time next year in late spring or early summer. Nancy has been very active in our neighborhood and her departure will create an enormous void that needs to be filled by a number of volunteers. Nancy has found her replacement to coordinate the watering of the Chambertin parkway but we have need for neighbors to assume the following currently being accomplished by Nancy. Nancy did not have a job outside of the home or small children so she devoted much of her time to improving the neighborhood.

Park Committee ~ Halloween Party ~ Christmas Tree Decorating ~ Newsletter Printing and Distribution Liaison to Parks and Recreation ~ Adopt a Park Representative ~ Organization of Planting and Mulching. If you are able to assist, please contact Nancy at 266-8797 for additional information.

Mandy Komeili, Licensed Aesthetician P.M.E  
Tel.408.264.SKIN (7546) Toll Free 1.877.4RUZHIN (478.9446)  
1503 Bordelais Drive, San Jose, CA 95118

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## Evening Mom's Group

Neighborhood moms with children up to kindergarten age meet every other Thursday evening from 5:30 to 7:00 pm both in homes and at the Almaden Winery Park. For more information, please contact Briana Soss at **408-448-2515** or **brianaathome@yahoo.com**

## Carmella's Real Estate Corner

By Carmella Graham, Neighbor & Realtor

I didn't receive a question this month so I thought I would relate a recent experience I had while representing clients in the purchase of a new home. One of the standard disclosures filled out and signed by all parties in the purchase/sale of a home is the Water Heater Statement of Compliance disclosure. This form provides that the seller of the property will certify, in writing, that the seller is in compliance with California state law regarding residential water heaters be braced, anchored or strapped to resist falling or horizontal displacement due to earthquake motion (Health & Safety Code ~19211). As noted in this disclosure, some local ordinances impose more stringent water heater bracing or strapping requirements than does California law. Santa Clara County does not and the state code is far more specific and stricter with regards to water heater strapping.



The agent representing the seller had his client sign the disclosure and presented it to my clients for signature. After signing and prior to the close of escrow, we noticed during our walk through that the water heater had not yet been strapped to the state code. I immediately contacted the seller's agent and requested that the water heater be strapped, the agent refused stating that it was up to the city code and he was not going to incur additional expense (\$95.00) for his client. Here is what the \$95.00 savings could have cost his client...

If the water heater had not been strapped to state code and there was another substantial earthquake which caused the water heater to become loose, creating a gas leak which resulted in an explosion destroying the home, my clients would have been able to sue the seller for the replacement cost of the home, rental expenses for a new dwelling while their home was being rebuilt and any number of other items the attorney might consider adding on to the lawsuit. Consider, if you will, any damage done by the explosion to the neighboring homes and the resulting law suits.

In the end, the water heater was strapped, the home closed escrow and my clients are settling in and unpacking boxes. The moral of this story is...as a seller, pay attention to your disclosures and check with your agent regarding the ramifications of each and every disclosure you are signing. As a buyer, you should also pay attention to all disclosures and if unclear or unsure, ask your agent for an explanation. Also, buyers and sellers should ask their agents if they are attending continuing education classes through their company to provide them with up to date information about changes in building codes and laws which will directly affect the sale or purchase of a home and keep them out of court in the future.

For additional information regarding the water heater strapping issue please call me after October 3 and I will provide you with a copy of the code. Please remember, the Health and Safety code regarding water heater strapping applies only when you are selling your home.

*If you have a question for  
Carmella's Real Estate Corner  
please call Carmella at  
(408) 354-1235 ext. 841  
or send an email to  
cgraham@apr.com*



**Volunteers Needed for our  
Annual Halloween Party & Parade.  
Please contact Mike Kubinieć @ 408.445.2644  
to offer your assistance.**

# Almaden Winery Neighborhood Park News...

*Park Committee  
Members:*

*Joe Cassetta  
cassetta@us.ibm.com*

*Mike Kubinieć  
MTKubinieć@cs.com*

*Amy Paschal  
atpaschal@aol.com*

*Nancy Sakal  
dsakal@earthlink.net*

*Bryan Shisler  
sidewyn10@hotmail.com*

*Shelley Shisler*

*Nick Wright  
nick@wright.org*



Help Wanted to assist with decorating the Christmas Tree in the Park. Tentatively scheduled for Thanksgiving Weekend, the job involves stringing lights and placing decorations on the tree.

Please contact  
Nancy Sakal at  
dsakal@earthlink.net

## Adopt a Vineyard

As you probably are aware, we have a small vineyard in our park - the last vestiges of the Almaden Winery. Although the park maintenance staff does its best to maintain our park, they are limited in resources. Are you interested in grape growing and wine making? If so, here is an opportunity for you to become involved in helping to properly maintain our little vineyard! Perhaps you and a friend or neighbor could help contribute to our wonderful park. If interested, contact: Michael Kubinieć, H: 445-2644, or mtkubinieć@cs.com.

## Requests from Almaden Winery Park Gardeners

- Please use the black plastic bags supplied in the lower garden to pick up your dog waste and place it in the receptacle. Some one has been throwing the bags into the hedge where the roses grow in the middle. This is only steps away from the receptacle.
- If you are going to use a bounce house please don't put the generator on the grass. It burns the grass and the gasoline spills are also bad for the grass.
- Motorized vehicles of any kind are not allowed in the park with the exception of park personnel or a special event. Several ruts in the grass were found in the lower lawn area that could only have been made from some kind of recreational motorized vehicle.

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## Operation Care & Comfort- Almaden Winery Neighbors Participate by Jennifer Burrows

Roughly 250,000 U.S. troops are currently stationed in Iraq, enduring sweltering hot temperatures, fighting for freedom. When Tresor resident Christine Lavazza heard that our troops are in need of sunscreen she was inspired to help. A phone call to the Red Cross and involvement with Operation Care & Comfort was born on Chambertin Drive. She sponsored the purchase of several dozen tubes of Mary Kay Sun Essentials sunscreen, SPF 15 lip balms and colorful gift bags with matching tulle ribbon. More needed necessities were solicited in the form of donations of toothpaste and toothbrushes from local dentists. Once the items to create the care packages were collected, an invitation to neighbors, family and friends went out to help with the assembly.

“With day-to-day living rough, our soldiers need to know they’ve got a whole bunch of continued support here in the states. Sending our service people necessities from home is the least we can do to show our appreciation!” she said. Personally, I was happy to assist the group of volunteers gather items together and fill each colorful cellophane bag for our troops. “This is about supporting our brave men and women serving in Iraq,” said another volunteer “It’s about doing the right thing.”

The group of busy hands met to assemble the care packages the evening of September 2. It was the second such gathering in our neighborhood. Once more necessities are collected, another neighborhood gathering will be planned. Since April 2003, the Santa Clara Valley Chapter Operation Care and Comfort program has shipped over 1200 boxes totaling more than over 46,000 pounds of needed items for distribution to Marine, Army, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard personnel deployed in the conflict regions. The Operation Care and Comfort plan is to continue shipping at least 20 boxes / 500 pounds per week for as long as the need exists. AWNA volunteers are proud to be a part of this continued effort.

If you are interested in donating time, necessities or money you can reach Christine at clavazza@earthlink.net, donations are tax deductible. Artwork and letters from children to our troops will also be included in future care packages, this is a wonderful touch of home!

# Kid's Corner

Kid's Corner Listings are available to the neighborhood youth looking for a job at no charge! Listings must be submitted by the 15th of each month to jgraham269@earthlink.net

## Almaden Winery Neighborhood Directory

Support your neighbors as they support the neighborhood!

Margaret Rappuchi  
Mortgage Consultant/Construction Specialist





333 North Canyon Parkway #225  
Livermore, CA 94551  
Phone: 925-245-5258 \* Mobile: 408-529-1130  
mrappuchi@firahorizon.com

Esther Milstein Grunlik  
Broker - Associate

**MEREDITH**  
James & Associates, Inc.

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Carrolla Grunlik  
Broker

126 N. Santa Cruz Ave  
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AWNA  
Future Meeting  
Dates-  
2004  
October 5  
December 7

2005  
First Tuesday of:  
February  
April  
June  
August  
September  
December

All meetings will  
be held at the  
New Vineland  
Library and  
will begin at  
6:50 with the  
Pizza Social  
and conclude  
approximately  
8:30



### Vineland Library Hours

M-W

11-8 p.m.

TH-SA

10-6 p.m.

SUNDAY

Closed

## The Almaden Winery Neighborhood Association Needs Your Support!

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:

***Yes! I would like to make a donation!***

*(Please fill in the requested information so you can be added to the AWNA Directory. All information will be held in the strictest confidentiality and will not be used for commercial purposes.)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: H: \_\_\_\_\_ W: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$5 \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or deliver to: Almaden Winery Neighborhood Association  
c/o Michael Kubiniec, 5666 Brionne Drive, San Jose, CA 95118-3914

***Thank you very much for your generosity!***



### Advance Planning for the Holidays...

Once again, Valerie and Tim Orsley have volunteered to coordinate the ordering and placement of Christmas trees in the front yards for Vintage and Vineland (Tresor is unable to participate due to the CC & R restrictions) for the Holiday season.. Cost for the 4' to 5' trees will be \$24.50 each plus \$2.00 for the rebar if you have not retained it from the previous years. Trees will be installed on Saturday, November 28 beginning at 10:00. Volunteers are requested to meet at the Orsley's home (1492 Bordelais Drive) by 10:00 am. The only equipment required would be a small sledge hammer and a small ladder. For

our new residents, this is the eighth year the neighborhood has been placing tree's in their front yards, we have generally had over 110 homes participate. Order forms for the trees will be sent out in mid-late October. To continue another tradition, neighbors are encouraged help decorate the Christmas tree on the Chambertin side of the Almaden Winery Park. This is also scheduled to be decorated on Saturday, November 28. We have the lights and the decorations, the only thing required are some volunteers. Ladders will be provided!



Don't Forget to Decorate Your Haunted House for Halloween and volunteer for the 9th annual Halloween Party & Parade. There will be a pumpkin carving contest, games and prizes. Check the website at for up to date details in early October.

## From the Resident Chef

*Scott Cooper, Executive Chef, Le Papillon Restaurant*

Here is a simple and delicious way to enjoy summer's bountiful crop of tomatoes. If you are like me and grow tomatoes in the back yard, you may find yourself baking the shortcakes often. If you don't have any tomatoes in the garden, don't worry the Princeton Plaza farmers market on Sundays has a great variety of tomatoes to choose from.

Heirloom Tomato Salad with Polenta Shortcake and Goat Cheese Mousse

For the Shortcakes:

- 1 cup Flour
- 2 tablespoons Olive Oil
- 3 tablespoons Polenta
- 1 teaspoon Baking Powder
- 1/2 cup Cream
- 1/2 teaspoon Salt
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan Cheese

Place all of the dry ingredients together in a mixing bowl and stir to blend well. Mix all the liquid ingredients together in another bowl. Pour the liquid into the dry ingredients and stir with a spoon until just blended. Be careful not to over-mix. Spoon the batter onto a parchment-lined or greased baking sheet and cook in a 400-degree oven until golden brown, about 12-14 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool to room temperature. Makes 8-10 shortcakes.

For the Goat Cheese Mousse:

- 6 ounces fresh Goat Cheese
- 1/2 cup whipping cream
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Place the room-temperature goat cheese in a stainless steel mixing bowl. Place the mixing bowl on top of a pan of simmering water and stir with a rubber spatula until it is just warm and all the graininess is gone. Set aside. Whip the cream to soft peaks and fold it into the goat cheese with the salt. Place in the refrigerator until thoroughly chilled.

For The Salad:

- 2 pounds Tomatoes, the more varieties the better
- 1/4 of a Red Onion
- A few sprigs fresh Basil
- 1/4 cup + 2 tablespoons Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 2 tablespoons Sherry Vinegar
- Salt and Pepper to taste
- Basil infused Oil

For Assembly:

Slice four shortcakes horizontally and set aside. Slice the tomatoes and place in a mixing bowl. Slice the red onion as thinly as possible and add it to the tomatoes. Slice the basil into chiffonade (Small Strips) and add the tomatoes. Dress the tomatoes with the olive oil, vinegar and salt and pepper and mix gently to coat the salad evenly. Place the shortcake bottoms in the center of the serving plates. Spoon some of the tomato salad on each along with a bit of the dressing. Place a couple of small quenelles of the goat cheese mousse on each of the salads and top with the top of each shortcake. Drizzle a little basil oil or extra virgin olive oil around the edge of each plate as a garnish.



Scott Cooper Lives in Vintage with his wife Carolyn and their two children