



Future Meetings

December 7, 2004
February 1, 2005
May 3, 2005
August 2, 2005
October 4, 2005
December 6, 2005

Pizza 6:45 P.M.
7:00 P.M.

Community Room
at the
Vineland Library

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www.awna.org

AWNA Webmaster
Paris Deiker

AWNA Board:

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Directors at large:

Joe Cassetta
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Nick Labosky
nick_labosky@hp.com

A Frightfully Good Time had by all at the Halloween Party

by Briana Soss and Kim Paoli

It was a beautiful, warm morning on Saturday, October 30th, and all the ghosts, witches, princesses and spidermen came out to play. We had a great turnout for the AWNA 5th Annual Halloween Party. It was wonderful to see all of the kids (and even some adults!) turn out in some of the best costumes we have seen yet! The morning started off with a variety of small games and crafts. Every station was busy from 'Bobbing for Licorice' to 'Golfing for Goodies'. And the craft table was turning out excellent creations from the spooky to the glamorous.

After an exhilarating round of Simon Says with "Coach Dave" (Dave Paoli), the morning culminated in the costume parade. With all the wonderful and creative costumes, we had to do two laps around the park to give the judges the opportunity to take it all in. Here is a list of this year's costume winners as judged by our esteemed, anonymous panel (thank you!):

- * Nicholas Vargas as a Lion
- * Andrew Paoli as Harry Potter
- * Lena Grimm as the Purple Dragon
- * Ella as Pippy Longstockings
- * Matthew as Robin, the Boy Wonder

Thanks for everyone coming out to make this a successful and fun event. We especially want to thank all our neighbors who pitched in and helped out with the snacks, set-up, manning booths, and clean up activities: Michelle Hair, Amy Paschal, Janelle Williams, Maria Dudukin, Nancy Sakal, Ashley Kubiniec, and, of course, our husbands Steve Soss and Dave Paoli. We could not have pulled it off without you.

Hope everyone has a great holiday season, and we look forward to doing this again next year!



Please Join Us (and bring a neighbor)...

Last AWNA Meeting of 2004,

Tuesday, December 7

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

Vineland Library Community Room

Bring The Holidays Into The Light

by Cathy Cassetta

The Holiday Season - that special time of year that begins and ends with two holidays we share in common, regardless of our faith or heritage: Thanksgiving and New Years! During this festive time we, individually as well as with families, co-workers, and neighbors, celebrate and remember special occasions and events that honor and recall our gratitude, faith, and/or heritage. Just some of the holidays during this time include Ramadan, Hanukkah, the Winter Solstice, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. Many holidays that reflect the diversity of faith and heritage in America today.

Please join the Almaden Winery Neighborhood Association in celebrating this festive time of year by decorating the exterior of your home in a way that is significant to you and may bring awareness to others of the many holidays we celebrate during the Holiday Season. Bright lights and fanciful trim bring joy and delight to all. What a great way to show we celebrate who we are individually and as a community.

There's even a \$50 prize! Two years ago there were two households who won - impossible to choose between them! The winner - or winners - of this prize also receive the honor of having a sign placed on their lawn heralding their selection!

The selection of who the winning house is as well as other decoration categories is done by a group of volunteer judges from the neighborhood. If you would like to be one of the judges this year, please e-mail Cathy Cassetta (cathy@tabardtheatre.org) or call her at 979-0531. The judging will take place on Sunday, December 19th at 6:30pm. We'll meet at the Cassettas' home at the four-way stop (Chambertin/Touraine/Treviso). We are looking for no more than 10 judges, please, so we'll take the first 10 who volunteer by e-mail or phone. As categories go, we have found in the past that setting categories before we venture out is much too limiting: to the judges and to the homeowners. We have found that categories jump out at us, inspired by some cleverly and uniquely decorated homes — or streets!!!! (Hint: there's one street in our neighborhood that has consistently gotten almost all households to participate in decorating their homes and landscapes with lights and another street that decorates all their mailboxes.) Let's bring the holidays to light in our neighborhood!



Bocce Ball at Almaden Lake Park (Almaden Expressway & Coleman)

Recognizing the changing needs of our community, several changes, renovations, and upgrades to Almaden Lake Park were suggested. During planning meetings last year, the neighborhood overwhelmingly supported adding Bocce Ball to this park. Please join Vice Mayor, Pat Dando on Saturday, December 11th at 1:30pm to celebrate the opening of this new feature at Almaden Lake Park.



Santa's Helpers Wanted!

Once again, Tresor Neighbor Nancy Sakal is leading the charge in decorating our Christmas Tree in the park. We need a few more of Santa's Helpers to help decorate the tree. Decorating is scheduled for Dec 18 at 10 AM rain or shine. It should only take just a couple of hours to complete the tree.

If you'd be interested in helping bring some festive lighting to our park, please join in the fun. Contact Nancy if you can help out: Tel: 266-8797; Email: dsakal@earthlink.net

By the way, if it just happens to be raining on Dec 18, please show up so we can work out the reschedule date and time. Also, if you have a tall ladder, please bring it!

Neighborhood Bits & Bytes...

Multiple Volunteers Wanted!!!

Nancy Sakal will be moving from our neighborhood 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

It's Time For Another Neighborhood Watch

It has been several years since we had the City present to us on Neighborhood Watch - a program whose goal is to promote safety awareness in our communities. With ongoing turnover in our neighborhood, it is time to do this again and to provide newer homeowners the awareness training to help keep their homes and our neighborhood safe. If you have participated in the program before, this provides an excellent opportunity for a refresher. Although we live in a relatively safe neighborhood in the safest part of the city, our community, with its relative affluence, can attract the potential for crime. In years past, we have experienced vandalism, mail theft, car break ins, identity theft and one or two home break ins. To keep our neighborhood and park safe, it requires the ongoing involvement and safety awareness of all 368 homeowners. The AWNA is seeking an individual to help coordinate this activity with the City and set up the community meeting. The time commitment is small but the rewards are great in providing this valuable service for our neighborhood. If you are interested in coordinating this, contact Michael Kubiniec, (408) 445-2644; mtkubiniec@cs.com.



Almaden Winery Community Center Ribbon Cutting

The long awaited renovation of the Almaden Winery Administration Building to a multi-purpose community center is nearing completion. The project includes converting the first floor office space into two large multi-purpose rooms, two activity rooms, and a preschool room. The current kitchen will be upgraded to accommodate catering large parties and gatherings. When complete, the Almaden Winery Community Center will provide classes and programs for the local neighborhood. A community celebration and ribbon cutting will be held at 11:30am on Saturday, December 11th. The center is located just south of our park.

Almaden Library & Community Center Renovation

Driving down Camden Avenue you may have noticed lots of construction activity at the site of the old Almaden Library & Community Center. Replacing the quaint facility that has been part of our neighborhood for several decades will be a state-of-the art, 64,000-square foot combined library and community center. It will feature special classrooms for young children, teens, & senior programs, a fitness area, gymnasium, and kitchen for cooking classes. The new center will open to the community in early 2006.

Carmella's Real Estate Corner

By Carmella Graham, Neighbor & Realtor

I received the following questions from our neighbors for this issue of the newsletter...

I have been contemplating placing my home on the market but recently received some information from another Realtor which indicated that the real estate market in California will increase by 15% in 2005. What do you think?

While the real estate market continues to be a wise investment and our homes continue to appreciate, I would hesitate to make any predictions about the value of our homes increasing by a specific amount or percentage. As we know from past experiences, the world and the economy can change practically overnight. Nobody could have predicted the impact that the dot com boom had on our economy, just as there were very few "doom and gloom" predictions prior to the series of events that created one of the biggest corrections to the stock and real estate markets in the most recent past. As your neighbor, I would love to see the property values increase by another 15%. My suggestion would be to sell your home when the timing is right for you and your family and not wait for any projected increase (or potential decrease). I will venture to say that according to information relayed by the California Association of Realtor, there is every indication that the real estate market in the Bay Area will continue to be "strong" with a high demand for housing and a limited inventory. There is also the prediction that interest rates will continue to rise in small increments which will have an effect on the housing market. Also, we are seeing some recovery in the employment area which will have a positive effect on our housing market. While I certainly wish that I could predict the future, the best I can do is offer some interesting information about our neighborhood. For example, Tresor and Vintage enjoyed an increase of approximately 14% this past year and Vineland saw the biggest increase in their property values by almost 30%.

I also received a number of questions from one of our neighbors regarding the securing of permits for remodeling or adding an addition to their home. I hesitate to answer these questions because it would be best to submit these directly to the permit/building department for up to date and precise information. I have found these individuals very helpful, friendly and extremely courteous when I have been required to assist my clients in searching for permits on their home purchase or securing information on existing room additions.

I would like to say that in 2004 we have seen steady gains in the sales price of our homes and our neighborhood continues to be very desirable. The completed Tot lot and the Vineland Library have been exceptional additions to the neighborhood and the soon to be completed Youth lot will further enhance our neighborhood.



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

Your Invited....

***Community Celebration and Ribbon Cutting for the
Almaden Winery Community Center
5730 Chambertin Drive
Saturday, December 11 at 11:30 am***

Almaden Winery Neighborhood Park News...

*Park Committee
Members:*

*Joe Cassetta
cassetta@us.ibm.com*

*Mike Kubinieć
MTKubinieć@aol.com*

*Amy Paschal
atpaschal@aol.com*

*Nancy Sakal
dsakal@earthlink.net*

*Bryan Shisler
shislerbry10@hotmail.com*

Shelley Shisler

*Nick Wright
nick@wright.org*

Due to many irrigation difficulties caused by a variety of problems our Park was without water for twenty days this Summer. This led to the Park losing seventy plants. Awna has applied to San Jose Beautiful for a grant to replace the plants and upgrade the irrigation from manual to automatic. These grants are only given in amounts of \$2,000 or less and require at least the same amount in donations or labor from the community. Upgrading the irrigation is essential since we have had a big cut back in gardening maintenance. Replacing the plants will not make sense without the irrigation upgrade. Our only other choice would be to have residents volunteer to come in and water the manual areas twice a week.

Neighborhood resident, Brian Cabral has volunteered to renovate the vineyards near Chambertin. He will be doing this during the week between Christmas and New Year's. If any one would like to join him and learn something about vineyards please contact brian.cabral@launchnet.com. We are going to be installing drip irrigation in that area. It is currently being irrigated manually and from overhead sprinklers. That is not a correct method of irrigating vineyards.

Rose Garden - We have received a donation of eighteen roses from the City of Newark. Our rose garden volunteer, Carol Sweetapple has a connection with them and arranged for the donation, picked them up and will be planting them during her weekly volunteer time when the roses are dormant and don't require as much attention.

It should be brought to parent's attention that the Rose Garden is not an appropriate place for children to play. The whole area is just not suitable because of the wine press and the sprinklers sticking up all around the wine press not to forget the thorns on the rose bushes. We have a beautiful grassy area, not to mention the many other areas in the park available for play.

Dog Park at Jeffrey Fontana Park (McAbee & Golden Oaks Way)

Groundbreaking on the enclosed dog area at Jeffrey Fontana Park is scheduled for Saturday, December 11th at 10:00 am. When complete in Spring 2005, dogs and their owners will enjoy a 32,000-square foot enclosed park, which includes an off-leash grass area, a seating area for dog owners, and other pet-friendly amenities.

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**

Websites of Interest

Almadenmothers@yahoo.com - This group is used for neighborhood questions related to kids, schools, etc. Can also be used to advertise local events for children and/or parents.

Eveningplaygroup@yahoo.com - This group is the evening mom's group which meets every other Thursday night from 5:30-7pm. It is a subset of the almadenmothers group. You may request to be added to any of these email lists by going to the website & sending an email to the group moderator.



Help Wanted to assist with decorating the Christmas Tree in the Park. Scheduled for Saturday, December 18 @10:00 am, the job involves stringing lights and placing decorations on the tree.

Please contact Nancy Sakal at dsakal@earthlink.net

Kid's Corner

Babysitter & Pet Sitter

Available:

Ashley Kubinieć is a very dependable

12 year old and enjoys being around kids and pets.

She is available to babysit your children on the weekends and some weekday afternoons.

Ashley is also available to pet sit while you are away.

Dependable and caring.

Lives in the Almaden Winery. If interested, call Ashley at 445-2644.

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: 408-528-1130
mrapuchi@firsthorizon.com



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AWNA
Future Meeting
Dates-

2005
First Tuesday of:
February
April
June
August
September
December

All meetings will
be held at the
New Vineland
Library and
will begin at
6:45 with the
Pizza Social
and conclude at
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

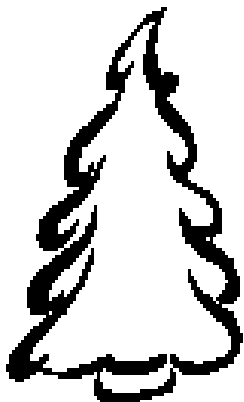
Thank you very much for your generosity!

Thank You For Supporting AWNA

A very big thank you to the following for their monetary contributions to the AWNA over the past several months: Asmelash and Alga Kifle, Christine Lavazza, Larry Ely, Uriel Vargas, Karen Van Dyke, Jim & Carmella Graham and Margaret Rappuchi. Additionally, thank you to those that made donations at our Halloween Activity. As you know, the AWNA is an all-volunteer community organization that subsists only on contribution made by you. For example, these funds pay for the cost of printing this newsletter. If you would like to make a contribution - none is too small! - complete the donation form found above. Thank you!

AWNA Tree Recycling

Recycle your Christmas tree from December 26, 2003 to January 30, 2004.



Trees will be collected with your yard waste on the same day as your garbage and recycling. Trees DO NOT require an extra garbage sticker, but need to be cut into 5-foot lengths, and be free of ornaments, tinsel and tree stands. Be sure to check the schedule for collection changes during the holidays.

- * **Set out trees by 6 am on your collection day**
- * **Remove tree stand, decorations, and tinsel**
- * **Cut trees into 5-foot lengths**
- * **Place trees on street 12 inches away from the curb**
- * **Flocked trees will now be accepted for composting and do not require an extra garbage sticker**