



# South Land Park Neighborhood Association

COMMUNITY, SAFETY,  
SCHOOLS,  
REPRESENTATION

**GET INVOLVED TODAY!**

Message From President  
Jordan Lindsey



SLPNA has been hard at work representing your interests. In December we organized a successful Area Crime Meeting due to increased crime; we initiated quarterly meetings with Councilman Rob Fong presenting top member issues; and we continue the success of our Facebook page and new website. In the coming months we will convene our Annual Community Meeting, March 24th at Pony Express Elementary, including visits from Councilman Fong and SCUSD's new Superintendent, Jonathan Raymond. We hope you will attend this important meeting and consider involvement with SLPNA, helping keep South Land Park a great neighborhood.

## ***ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER***

***February, 2010***

### **South Land Park Safety Meeting Held**

The South Land Park Neighborhood Association (SLPNA) held a well-attended neighborhood safety meeting December 10th. Over 50 area residents attended a 2 hour meeting at Bell Coolidge Center where concerns over a recent rash of robberies and unusual occurrences were discussed. Beyond neighborhood concerns, several City representatives provided important information on how area families and groups can be an effective protective force against wrong-doers.

The meeting began with SLPNA President Jordan Lindsay welcoming the attendees and outlining the evening's schedule. Jordan then introduced City Council representative Rob Fong.

Mr. Fong started by noting that, unfortunately, crime is on the increase. However, he urged meeting participants to get involved and to be the "eyes and ears" for the Police Department. He noted that even at robust funding levels, safety officers cannot be in all places at all times, so neighbors must provide the information and alerts to allow rapid response. Mr. Fong strongly suggested that area residents form Neighborhood Watch programs - the statistics show that these groups provide an extra level of safety and precaution where they are active.

After Mr. Fong's introductory remarks, representatives from the Police Department provided advice and observations for meeting attendees. Information provided by Katherine Hutchinson, Community Service Officer, included:

- Neighbors should always report suspicious activities on the non-emergency line; the police key-in on suspicious actions and events when reported.
- Although there has been a spike in robberies, burglaries and vandalism, good progress is being made on this spate of occurrences. Again, citizen calls are extremely helpful in tracking down and quick response to crime.
- Neighbors should be very careful of solicitors. A very common mode of operation is for perpetrators to go door-to-door as solicitors, in that way gauging who is home and who is not. Even if you do not open the door, you should indicate your presence in the home. If it is highly suspicious, indicate you are calling the police to check out their validity.
- Use 311 (the City information line) to report non-emergency situations.
- If you have elderly residents in your neighborhood and need to alert them of a situation, do it by personal contact - they are not necessarily computer-savvy.
- Home invasions (criminals entering the house while someone is at home) are usually committed by young adults, with many instances involving drugs on the premises.
- Robbery is a violent crime of theft, burglary is theft without violence.
- Be active in your neighborhood association - they are important conduits for helping the police prioritize resources and deployment.

At this point Captain Dan Schiele informed participants on a variety of topics. His observations included:

- He oversees approximately 150 officers for this area of protection. The primary responsibility for his operation is patrols.
- While there has been budget pressure, there has been no decrease in patrol officers. Thirty five officers, city-wide, have been added as a result of federal stimulus programs.
- There has been a decrease in investigative operations, so that patrols can remain fully staffed.
- There has been a reduction in overtime - that is why neighbors need to keep their vigilance increased. It also has an effect on the time officers stay on the street as

### **SLPNA Annual Meeting - March 24th, 7-9p.m. Pony Express School**

The South Land Park Neighborhood Association will be holding its annual Community Meeting on Wednesday March 24th from 7-9 p.m. at the Pony Express Elementary School, 1250 56th Avenue. Speakers and issues include:

- Mayor Kevin Johnson (invited)
- Area City Councilman Rob Fong
- Sacramento City Unified School District Superintendent Jonathan Raymond
- Capt. Dan Schiele, Area Police Commander
- Neighborhood Services staff
- Flood control status & improvements
- Water meter installation
- SLPNA President's Report
- Board election

This is an open meeting - all neighbors are invited. Learn, get involved, make a difference! Refreshments will be served.

they must use their on-duty time to file reports and paperwork.

- The recent spate of crimes has been frustrating as there is little pattern to them.
- He urged that with the current situation the police are focusing on hot spots. If people do not report crimes or unusual situations, the police have no idea where they are needed.
- In response to a question, Capt. Schiele expressed frustration with the courts, especially regarding youthful offenders, noting that there was a “revolving door” where criminals were quickly on the streets again, even after being found guilty.

Mariano Jauco, our Neighborhood Services representative, discussed the Neighborhood Watch program. Mariano started by saying that the neighborhood watch groups are a bridge between residents and city resources. He also complimented Captain Sheely’s officers as the best in the City - South Land Park residents should be aware of the quality protection they are receiving. Mariano also noted that while budget pressures have been intense, there has been a strong resolve at the City Council to put public safety as the highest priority.

Mr. Jauco then went into how we can effectively organize to prevent crime and help in early detection. He urged that block parties are a very good starting point for a Watch program. Even if a Watch program does not materialize, getting acquainted with your neighbors, sharing phone numbers and email addresses, and knowing when your neighbors go on trips all are very effective precautions. Plus, you generally meet people you like.

For Neighborhood Watch there is well-resourced assistance available from the City to organize a program. The web site to gain access to to this wealth of information is <http://www.sacpd.org/getinvolved/watch>. Mariano provided a brief summary of the Neighborhood Watch program:

- The first step is to organize a block or area meeting at a house in the neighborhood.
- At that meeting neighbors get to know one-another and can begin organizing a response/ communication activity.
- Training is available from the city prior to holding the first meeting.
- It is essential to select a Block Captain to provide a lead for organization and follow-through.
- A contact list is formed and neighbors then can contact each other, or the police, when suspicious activities are encountered.
- Again, it is important to make sure the contact list contains the type of communication (phone, email, social network) that will get the word out quickly and effectively. The list needs to be flexible depending on the type of communication each resident responds to.
- It is also a great opportunity to get to know your area residents.
- Materials such as signs or decals can be ordered for those involved in the Watch program.

### **Correction to November, 2009 SLPNA Article**

In the previous SLPNA Newsletter, in an article regarding funding for fire protection services, it was stated, “Most cities spend about two-thirds of the budget on public safety, while Sacramento spends just over 50%...”. Council Member Fong provided a correction to that statement. He indicates while it

is generally correct that the City spends just over 50% for safety, the City Council only has discretion over a certain portion of its budget - other areas are committed by statute or obligation (such as bond repayment). Council Member Fong notes that the Council has committed 67% of the City's discretionary spending to public safety. We thank Mr. Fong for this correction - and for taking the time to read our newsletter!

### **Green Waste Changes**

SLPNA residents have recently received information from the City about a big change in the way green waste is to be collected. The "voluntary" Containerized Green Waste Program is coming to parts of the Land Park neighborhood who don't already have it VERY SOON. Please keep your eyes out for the mailing - you may have received it in the last few days.

The most important aspect of the program is that UNLESS you contact the City by Feb. 19th, you will receive a green waste container and will NO LONGER be on the weekly waste pickup program for waste in the street. Residents must contact the city by phone (use the 3-1-1 City access line) to RETAIN their curbside pickup. Otherwise, containers will be delivered February 21-25. Containerized pickup will begin the week of March 2nd. So transfer to the containerized program is "voluntary", but you must call if you still want to continue pickup in the street and not be part of the container program.

A couple community meetings will be taking place so if you have questions or reservations about the program, this is a chance to have your concerns addressed by our City staff:

- Wednesday, Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. If your can is collected on Wednesday as a "Wednesday Customer" you are invited to attend a meeting at California Middle School at 1600 Vallejo Way to learn more about this service.\*
- Thursday, Feb. 18 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. If your can is collected on Tuesday as a "Tuesday Customer" you are invited to attend a meeting at Pony Express Elementary School at 1250 56th Avenue to learn more about this service.

Important aspects of the program include:

- Even if you opt-in for the containerized waste program, the City will continue street pickup of neatly piled street waste in six specified months, with two months (November & December) containing 2 pick-up weeks during the heavy leaf-drop periods.
- For those that opt-in to the program they will receive a \$3.04/ month (\$36.48/year) savings on their utility bill.
- Collection of containerized waste will be on the same day as house waste/recycling waste pickup.
- The container will be a 96 gallon plastic canister, to be placed on the street with other waste containers on the regularly scheduled collection day.
- If you use a gardener you need to inform them of the change, if you opt-in.

- Saturday, Feb. 27 and Sunday, Feb. 28 loose-in-the-Street crews do a mass pickup throughout the affected neighborhoods to get them cleaned up before can service starts.

If you have any questions about this, please feel free to call the City Solid Waste office or Chris Thoma at (916) 808-4833 or e-mail at [cthoma@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:cthoma@cityofsacramento.org) from the Solid Waste Department.

**Water Rates**

Aside from being required by State law, metered water rates provide a more equitable water rate than flat rate service, because customers pay based on the amount of water they use. The City’s metered rate structure that approved in June 2009 features a base service charge that covers all of the Department's fixed costs as it pertains to providing water.

For the average single-family residential customer, this is equal to \$15.94 per month. The remainder of the metered rate is the volumetric component which covers variable costs of water production and distribution, including such costs as chemicals, fuel, and electricity. The current volumetric component of the metered rate is \$0.6509 per hundred cubic feet (or 748 gallons) of water. So, City residents now pay a flat-rate of \$29.87/month for water.

The included chart shows the annual bill for a flat rate customer versus a customer who uses an average amount of water using a metered water rate. Customers who use more water will pay more - those who use less will pay less than the amounts shown.

Typical Water Use FY 2009/2010 Water Rate

Mth.	Gal.	Cu Ft	Flt Rt(\$)	Mtrd Rt(\$)
Jan	265	11	29.87	23.10

Mth.	Gal.	Cu Ft	Flt Rt(\$)	Mtrd Rt(\$)
Feb	267	10	29.87	22.45
Mar	241	10	29.87	22.45
Apr	274	11	29.87	23.10
May	386	16	29.87	26.35
Jun	549	22	29.87	30.26
Jul	676	28	29.87	34.17
Au	724	30	29.87	35.47
Sep	673	27	29.87	33.51
Oct	531	22	29.87	30.26
Nov	499	20	29.87	28.96
Dec	410	17	29.87	27.01
Total			\$358.44	\$337.08

Timing of Meter Installation

Much of the Land Park and South Land Park neighborhoods are served by water mains located in the backyards. These mains will be abandoned, a new main will be located in the street front and a new water service and meter will be installed at each property. Some of these main relocation projects have already begun along Land Park Boulevard, north of Fruitridge.

The Department of Utilities is moving forward installing residential water meters. The schedule is based on available funding yearly approved by the City Council, using three approved criteria 1.

Replace aging/ leaking water mains, 2. Spread retrofit projects throughout the City, and 3. Complete projects in a manner to create efficient meter reading routes. In addition to approved rate annual funding, the Department of Utilities has secured over \$22 million in federal stimulus funds this year to expedite the water meter program, and is actively seeking additional funding.

Most of the areas within the South Land Park Neighborhood Association having mains located in the street will be provided water meters as part of the stimulus funds received by the City. For further information you can contact Jessica Hess at (916) 808-8260 or by email, [jhess@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:jhess@cityofsacramento.org).

### **Recent Board Meeting & Activity Highlights**

Listed are highlights from recent SLPNA Board meetings and activities:

- Randall Henry Elected to Board
- Cindy McKeeman elected as SLPNA Secretary
- Jay McKeeman appointed SLPNA Newsletter editor
- SLPNA developed a Facebook presence
- SLPNA web site improved, including dues payment via PayPal
- Community business roster developed
- Organized December Safety meeting
- Reviewed recent traffic calming report and statistics
- Started quarterly meetings on neighborhood issues with Councilman Rob Fong
- Heard Chris Garland, candidate for local Assembly seat
- Discussed various neighborhood complaints & concerns
- Attended neighborhood meeting on Charlie Jensen Park vandalism & improvements
- Planning SLPNA Annual Community Meeting

### **Annual Dues - Time to Renew**

Community residents - If you have a star by the address block in this newsletter it is time to renew your SLPNA membership. Dues are crazy-cheap, \$10/year or \$25 for three years. Renew on SLPNA's web site, [www.slpna.org](http://www.slpna.org), it is easier than ever. Get your neighbors to join; the more the better!

SLPNA now has a business membership, \$25/year or \$60 for three years. The exposure you gain with your SLPNA membership will easily repay your membership dues. Advertising in this newsletter can also be arranged. Go to <http://www.slpna.org/8.html> for more information.

### **Association Board Member Nominations Open**

Become a Board Member! Nominations are now open to serve on the SLPNA Board of Directors. Board members attend monthly meetings; discuss neighborhood issues, serve on various committees, and generally work toward the betterment of the neighborhood. Members can nominate themselves or another association member. If nominating another person, please check to be sure that person is willing to run. Members must reside or operate a business within association boundaries. Two year terms begin April 1, 2010.

Nominations should be submitted by Friday March 5, 2010 by e-mail, facebook, or regular mail to the address shown on page 8.

SLPNA is looking for Officer positions including Vice President and Treasurer. Board member John Rice, who has been SLPNA's account-protector for many, many years is allowing someone else to handle the checkbook. We thank John for his efforts and trust in handling the SLPNA accounts.

### **John Morse Waldorf School to Move to Former Alice Birney Site**

John Morse Waldorf Methods School will relocate to the former site of Alice Birney Elementary school in the fall, Sacramento City Unified School District Superintendent Jonathan Raymond announced Tuesday evening. Alice Birney is one of four district schools closed in June because of low enrollment and budget cuts.

Raymond made the announcement to John Morse parents, who gathered at the K-8 school that has been operating over capacity with 411 students. Alice Birney can hold 565, which will allow the school to expand to two classes per grade level, said Maria Lopez, district spokeswoman.

Thanks to Melody Gutierrez, Sacramento Bee, 2/10/10

### **Mid Century Modern Home Tour Announced**

On Saturday, June 26, 2010 the Sacramento Mid-Century Modern Home Tour will provide enthusiasts an opportunity to discover what it's like to live, work and play in more than 15 quintessentially Californian residential and commercial structures built between 1945 and 1970. Participants are invited to tour buildings designed by renowned architects Jones + Emmons/Eichler Homes and other area architects including Carter Sparks, Leonard F. Starks, Rickey + Brooks, and builders/developers such as Jim and Bill Streng. Homes are located in the South Land Park and adjacent neighborhoods.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. at the Sacramento Executive Airport. The program begins at 10:00 a.m.; homes will be open to visitors from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Participants will receive tour booklets/driving maps upon check-in, and can check-out the interpretive items (including a showing of Scopitone films), and the airport itself, a Leonard F. Starks-designed (circa 1955/56) building.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and will be available to purchase online and at various Sacramento locations beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>, including Capital Nursery and Blomberg Windows. Tickets can be purchased the day of the event for \$25 at the check-in desk at Sacramento Executive Airport. A portion of the proceeds from this event will be donated to the Short Center South, a neighborhood organization providing studio art and recreational opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. The tour is still developing; please check for additional details, changes and updates at <http://www.sacmcmhometour.blogspot.com>



Our association, the South Land Park Neighborhood Association (SLPNA), was organized in 1990, obtaining permanent non-profit, public benefit status in 2008. The purpose of the organization is to distribute important information, provide a place for neighbors to gather and express their views, and act on items of common interest. Recently the SLPNA Board developed a new guiding vision and concrete goals for the group.

Contact Information:

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 Address: P.O. Box 22903  
 Sacramento CA 95822

By E-mail: [slpna@slpna.org](mailto:slpna@slpna.org)

Website: [www.slpna.org](http://www.slpna.org)

South Land Park Neighborhood Association

Address: P.O. Box 22903

Sacramento CA 95822

**By E-mail:**

[slpna@slpna.org](mailto:slpna@slpna.org)

**Vision**

- *To effectively represent the interests of the neighborhood by actively engaging with the City Council, school district, County Board of Supervisors, and other influential bodies.*
- *To help protect the neighborhood's residents and property and to help maintain and improve the value of the neighborhood.*
- *To create a well-connected and strong community.*

**Goals to Accomplish the Vision**

- *Constantly communicate current events and issues with the members of the association through email, newsletter, website, and online communities.*
- *Organize events that help foster community – such as music and food.*
- *Contact new residents to the community and welcome them to SLPNA. Ask them for their interests and get them plugged in.*

**Address**