



Erikson Neighborhood Association

Representing More Than 650 Homes in the Robertsville Area of San Jose

P.O. Box 18506 • San Jose, CA 95158 • Facebook: Erikson Neighborhood Association • Yahoo: EriksonNA July/August 2017 Newsletter

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Adopt-A-Street Workday

When: Sat. Jul 29, 9:00 AM – Noon
Where: Branham Lane at La Crescent Loop
Bring: Rakes, brooms, pruning shears & loppers, ladders, and wheel barrows



Volunteers needed! Please join us for our 15th Adopt-a-Street cleanup day. We'll trim the bushes and vines, rake the debris and leaves, and clean litter along the soundwall on Branham from Eagle Lake to Pearl, and Pearl from Branham to Calle de Verde. We'll have a gas powered hedge trimmer and leaf blower, gloves, safety vests, litter grabbers and trash bags. In 2010, we saved this landscaping from removal by adopting it. We appreciate your help!

ENA General Meeting

Wednesday August 16, 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Pearl Ave. Library Community Room

→ **Erikson Park Mural:** Culminating many months of hard work, Erikson resident and volunteer **Erin Diven** will unveil her proposal for an 88 foot mural on the wall facing the tot lot at Erikson park. The mural will feature a historical perspective of San Jose "then and now". Erin performed extensive research on the theme and content. She also interviewed many artists and viewed their work, ultimately selecting **Lila Gemellos** (www.gemellosmurals.com). Erin and Lila will share their ideas and examples of Lila's art, and answer any questions and concerns you may have. Then we'll ask for a vote to approve the project and hopefully begin painting soon!

Erin and Lila have found creative ways to keep the project cost within an amount that the District 9 council office has offered to sponsor, so no additional funds are needed from the neighborhood. One way they'll minimize the cost is by painting on the existing wall texture without smoothing it.

→ **Cambrian Academy:** will move into their new campus on Almaden Expressway just north of Branham this school year. They are a private middle and high school with many international students who rent rooms from private families. We've invited them to speak at our meeting but were unable to confirm availability by press time.

→ **Peter Hamilton** from City Councilmember **Donald Rocha's** office will update us on city and District 9 news. Please note that we will be unable to discuss the Emergency Bridge Housing Topic (see pg. 2) in detail because the room is not large enough for the audience that topic would draw. There will be a separate community meeting on that topic, which we will announce via Facebook and Nextdoor.

→ ENA Business:

- ENA float at Thousand Oaks 4th of July Parade
- Neighborhood concerns

National Night Out

ENA's 9th Annual Ice Cream Social

When: Tuesday Aug 1st, 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Where: Erikson Park
Who: Your family, and bring a neighbor!

- Free ice cream
- Balloon animal and face painting
- Live music by Soft Hits of The Seventies



ENA's first event was a National Night Out Ice Cream Social in 2009. This year we continue the tradition with our 9th annual NNO Ice Cream Social, and we hope you can join us. We'll feature a variety of ice cream treats at no charge.

We expect visits from both **police** and **firefighters**, and children will likely be able to tour a fire truck. VIPs such as city councilmember **Donald Rocha** and others may visit as well. We'll have live music, a trivia contest, raffle prizes and more. If you have something to promote, feel free to bring a table, handouts and raffle prizes.

Sponsored nationally by the **National Association of Town Watch** and co-sponsored locally by the **San Jose Police Department**, NNO has been held annually since 1984 to increase awareness about community policing programs such as drug prevention, neighborhood watch, and other anti-crime efforts. Getting to know your neighbors is a great way to prevent crime. Come meet your neighbors, then join our Facebook and Nextdoor groups to stay in touch with them.

Volunteers needed: If you can help with set-up please arrive at 6:30 pm. Clean-up help also needed. For info, contact NJ Olson at (408) 930-4686 or nj_olson@yahoo.com.



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ENA's June 28th General Meeting

- By Leah Verhoeven

We had about 22 attendees at our June meeting. **Shruti Gopinathan** from **San Jose Community Energy** kicked off our meeting with a review of the new **Community Choice Energy** program. This program was unanimously approved by the San Jose City Council to give residents more renewable energy options at competitive rates. Delivery and billing of your energy would still come via PG&E, but the sources would be managed by the CCE. This opt-in program is expected to launch in Spring 2018. For more details, visit www.sjenvironment.org/sjce.

Next, **Almaden Air Force Station** Historian/Archivist **Basim Jaber** walked us through the local history of the **Mt Umunhum** radar tower. Originally, the site was the Almaden AFS (1957-1980) and served as a key part of the air defense network during the Cold War. The tower was the largest of its kind and was the largest rotating antenna in the world. It closed in spring of 1980 due to technology obsolescence, and the site fell into disrepair. In 1986, the land was sold to the **Midpeninsula Open Space District**. Over time, they tore down all of the other buildings (houses, stores, offices, etc.) except the tower. The vast majority of the building materials (concrete and wood) were recycled back into the mountain to restore the topography to the original state as outlined in historical Air Force drawings. The **Umunhum Conservancy** is working to have the tower designated as a historical landmark, further protecting the tower's future. The Mt Umunhum grand opening is September 16-17. Check out the new trails and amazing view from one of the highest peaks in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Visit www.umunhumconservancy.org for more information on the efforts to save the tower and www.openspace.org/mount-umunhum for more information on the new park and trail.

Peter Hamilton from Councilmember **Donald Rocha**'s office closed out our meeting with some updates on local items. First, the State is changing the way that traffic impacts from new development are measured from "Level of Service" (basically, how long cars wait at intersections) to "Vehicle Miles Traveled" (or how many more vehicle miles would be traveled based on the new development). The City is working to determine the local policy of measurement, mitigation requirements, and impacts now. This is particularly relevant to us with several potential large developments in our area. Contact eriksonboard@yahoo.com if you'd like to get more involved in managing neighborhood responses to new developments. Next, Peter updated us on the **Emergency Bridge Housing Communities** proposal. This would be a short-term solution to house homeless residents in "tiny homes" throughout the City. The initial site proposed in District 9 was adjacent to **Thousand Oaks Park**. Watch for updates on Nextdoor and Facebook. [See also article this page.]

News Briefs

Please support our Advertisers: ENA newsletter advertisers support ENA by paying \$120 per 6 months, or managing newsletter printing and delivery. All 6 have renewed for Jul to Dec, helping to keep ENA membership free. Thanks!

ENA's Facebook Group: Join our 368 members by emailing EriksonBoard@yahoo.com with your name, FB name, and address.

ENA's Nextdoor Group: Join our 438 members: www.nextdoor.com.

VTA Light Rail Station Housing: VTA requested General Plan land use designation changes at 7 light rail stations to enable high-density housing and minor retail in their parking lots. The request for the Branham station was withdrawn until at least next year. During that time, a traffic study will be performed along the Hwy 87 corridor. In 2011, San Jose adopted a major revision to its General Plan, which increased planned density at the Branham and Capitol light rail stations to a level roughly similar to the Ohlone Chynoweth stations. VTA requested significantly higher density than that. The city will hold a **community meeting on Mon Aug 14, 6:30-7:30** at the Southside Community center for a similar request for the Cottle light rail station. For info, contact Kimberly Vacca at (408) 535-1241 or kimberly.vacca@sanjoseca.gov.

Emergency Bridge Housing Communities: The city reviewed a list of city-owned property against a small set of criteria to identify one site per council district to temporarily house up to 25 homeless people in 20 Emergency Sleeping Cabins with on-site case management. The only site identified in District 9 was adjacent to Thousand Oaks Park. An overflow crowd attended a meeting at the Pearl Ave library on July 11th. The city has since revised the site selection criteria. They will review all the original properties and new sites recommended by community members against the new criteria, and publish a revised list this month. They are targeting early 2018 to select sites and begin the development process. For more info, see www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?nid=5609.

Celebrate Cambrian: Councilmember **Donald Rocha** and the Camden Community Center present the 12th Annual District 9 Celebrate Cambrian Festival Sunday August 27th, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at Camden Community Center, 3369 Union Ave. This FREE festival will showcase local food, live music and entertainment, a resource fair, a photo booth, children's activities and games, jump houses & more. Info: (408) 535-4977 or Brianne.Urban@sanjoseca.gov.

Thousand Oaks July 4th Parade & Celebration:



Congratulations to **Billy Manning**, **Dennis Hopp** and their dedicated volunteers for winning ENA first place in the Thousand Oaks 4th of July float competition for the fourth year in a row! ENA's float commemorated the Battleship USS Alabama and featured Erikson resident veteran **Joe Caruso** who served as a machinist on the Alabama. Thanks also to the **Cogan** family for representing Erikson with a second float! Be sure to attend this great family event next year.



Community Calendar

Sat Jul 29, 9:00-noon – Adopt-a-Street Workday (pg. 1)

Tue Aug 1, 7:00-8:30pm – ENA National Night Out (pg. 1)

Mon Aug 14, 6:30-7:30pm – Community meeting for Cottle light rail station land use designation change to enable high-density housing (pg. 2).

Sun Aug 27, 11am-4pm – Celebrate Cambrian Fest. (pg. 2)

Sat Sep 9, 9:30am-1:30pm – United N'hoods of Santa Clara County "Mini" Training Conference & resource fair, Seven Trees Cmty Ctr. www.unscc.org

Sat/Sun Sept 16/17 – Mount Umunhum Grand Opening

- Reservations required: www.openspace.org/umunhum-grand-opening

Wed Sep 27, 7:00-8:30pm – ENA General Meeting

- Santa Clara Valley Water District Guadalupe River update

- City Planning update on future housing at VTA light rail stations

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