



# South Land Park Neighborhood Association

## **NEWSLETTER**

*1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2009 Issue*

### **School Board Votes to Close Alice Birney**

Due to budget shortfalls the Sacramento City Unified trustees voted April 16th to close four schools, including Alice Birney elementary in South Land Park on 13th street. The decision came despite anguished testimony from a number of parents and members of the community at a board meeting at the school the night before. Posters hung from the fence that surrounds the campus that read "Kindergartners Love Alice Birney" or "Help save our school." There was also another poster that informed all the neighbors around the area what time the meeting was going to be and asked them for support.

Other schools approved for closure in the coming months were Genesis High School and two other elementary school campuses: Lisbon Elementary and Thomas Jefferson Elementary. Interim District Superintendent Susan Miller said the district will have to close 10 to 12 schools in the next three years because of declining enrollment and budget shortfalls. The total cuts will be approximately \$1.6 million.

Alice Birney is expected to close at the end of the 2008-09 school year, at which time students will be enrolled into John Cabrillo elementary on Seamas. A common concern among parents is the distance children will now be forced to walk if no other transportation is available, along with the increased student traffic at Cabrillo which is located near a busy freeway onramp. Additional concerns are the increased class sizes due to the merge, the lack of support for children with special needs, and the transition and coordination of this major undertaking.

At the April 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting Jordan Lindsey, Vice-President of South Land Park Neighborhood Association, implored the board members and the school district staff to work with the community and the City Council to ensure a proper transition for the students as well as appropriate maintenance of the Alice Birney property, which lies in the heart of South Land Park. As of now, no plans for the property have been released.

COMMUNITY  
SAFETY  
SCHOOLS  
REPRESENTATION  
**GET INVOLVED  
TODAY!**

### **In This Issue:**

Alice Birney  
Elementary to Close



Land Park to get  
Trader Joes?



South Land Park  
Architecture



### Contact the Association:

p: 391.0626 • e: [slpna@slpna.org](mailto:slpna@slpna.org) • w: [www.slpna.org](http://www.slpna.org)  
a: SLPNA, PO Box 22903, Sacramento, CA 95822

Members and public welcome to attend board meetings, held the second Wednesday of Jan, Feb, April, May, June, July, Sept, Oct, & Nov •7:00 p.m.

\*Please add [slpna@slpna.org](mailto:slpna@slpna.org) to your email address book so that future correspondence from us arrives in your email "Inbox" and not your "Spam" folder

## Crime Alert

### Residential Burglaries Hit SLP Hard

Since January of this year, South Land Park Hills has seen a dramatic increase in residential burglaries, and attempted burglaries. And while we are working on setting up a community meeting with local law enforcement so that we can work together to address this problem, in the meantime, check out these tips for deterring burglars:

- do not answer your door to solicitors - if they do not leave immediately, call the police!
- install motion-detecting lights around the perimeter of your home, especially in dark areas where access to your home could be gained, such as garage side doors
- keep all doors locked (sliders, front doors, garage side doors, back doors, etc), even when you are home
- lock all gates with a padlock
- make your home look occupied when you leave - leave a car in the driveway, leave lights and TV on in your home, etc.
- post security system sign (even if you do not really have a home security system)
- remove all mail, flyers, etc. from mailbox and front porch as soon as possible; pull up garbage cans immediately after trash is picked up, or ask a neighbor to help
- tell neighbors when you are going to be out of town and put interior lights on timers
- watch for cars, vans, & trucks that do not look familiar, are stopped for prolonged periods of time, and/or drive back and forth frequently - report them to police immediately!

## Trader Joe's

A new Trader Joe's grocery store is likely to open next year in a shopping center just south of the Sacramento Zoo on South Land Park Drive and Sutterville. If ongoing lease talks lead to a deal, the popular Pasadena-based specialty-foods chain would take over space now occupied by Prime Supermarket, a store offering a variety of ethnic foods.

The company, which has six stores in the Sacramento area, would probably need several months to complete plans for the new store in the Del Rio Shopping Center, and possibly an additional six months to convert the space into TJ's nautical format.

Trader Joe's VP for real estate, Doug Yokomizo, isn't commenting on the possible new store. And Herbert K. Yee, a retired dentist whose family owns the Del Rio center, is reticent to provide details, saying, "I would prefer that the information comes from (Trader Joe's)."

But he acknowledges that lease talks with the company are under way.

Tenants at the center say rumors of Trader Joe's arrival have been swirling for weeks. Reps for the grocery company – known for discounted and gourmet goodies – have been seen walking around the property.

## Mid-Century Modern Architecture in South Land Park

In our neighborhood, you just have to walk out your front door to find mid-century modern (MCM) buildings and homes. MCM architecture (also referred to as "Post-War Modern") is a style that rose from the post WWII suburban housing boom. Characteristics of MCM architecture include: clean and simple lines; walls of glass; open floor plans that incorporate outdoor space; emphasis on the horizontal plane, and; flat or wide-angled roofs. Several MCM styles are prevalent in South Land Park.

MCM ranch homes are well-represented in our neighborhood. Features of these homes often include: stunning grand double front doors with ornamental door knobs; large plate glass windows; extra wide eaves; and use of materials such as flagstone, brick, stucco and wood. Occasionally you will spot a large split-level (think "Brady Bunch") MCM home. Custom homes designed by notable local architects such as Carter Sparks, Grant Caywood, and Dean Unger are sprinkled throughout the neighborhood.

Look no further than South Hills Plaza for examples of Googie architecture, characterized by bold geometric, parabolic and curvy lines. The roof at Vic's IGA (formerly Jumbo Market) with a zig-zag outline and skylights that allow natural light to pour into the store and the US Post Office's wavy arches are great examples.



Further south from the Plaza you will see a small group of Eichler Homes built in the mid-1950s. Joseph Eichler developed neighborhoods in California

with practical and affordable mass-produced homes designed by respected architects. Eichler Homes were cutting edge in terms of their design and inclusion of unique features such as radiant heating and post-and-beam construction. The style of these homes was emulated across the U.S. Similar MCM homes built by Streng Bros., a Sacramento building firm, can also be found here.

For further information and resources, please visit the following websites:  
Mid-Century Home Style -- <http://www.midcenturyhomestyle.com/index.htm>  
Googie Architecture Online -- <http://www.spaceagecity.com/googie>  
The Eichler Network -- <http://www.eichlernetwork.com>  
Eichler Homes in Sacramento -- <http://eichlerific.blogspot.com>

*Gretchen Steinberg is a busy designer/mom currently renovating two MCM homes in South Land Park*

### **SLPNA Openings: Secretary and Board Members.**

Participation on the Board is extended to SLPNA members who reside or operate a business within Association boundaries. Members can nominate themselves or another association member simply by contacting SLPNA via email, telephone, or post. Terms are 2 years in length.

**Join the SLPNA Board and help to keep South Land Park Hills a great place to live!**

### Know Someone Who is NOT a Member?

Tell your neighbor, friend, or a local business about the benefits of membership.

- a board of your peers who address the needs of the South Land Park Hills area
- newsletters with community updates and interesting information
- regularly updated information on the Association's website, [www.slpna.org](http://www.slpna.org)
- presence at community meetings and annual General Meeting
- hosted community events (e.g., National Night Out Family Event)

The South Land Park Neighborhood Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit corporation.

Membership status (check one):  New Member  Renewing Member

Name of New or Renewing Member(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Residence or Business Address (within SLPNA boundaries):  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: SLPNA's membership information is kept confidential, for SLPNA use only.

Mail to: South Land Park Neighborhood Association, PO Box 22903, Sacramento, CA 95822 • E-mail:  
[slpna@slpna.org](mailto:slpna@slpna.org)



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ADDRESS CORRECTION

REQUESTED