



South Land Park Neighborhood Association

COMMUNITY, SAFETY,
SCHOOLS,
REPRESENTATION

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

Message From President

Jordan Lindsey



As 2011 begins I want to reflect on the changes we've seen in South Land Park and how the neighborhood association has worked to serve you over the last year. One of the highlights of the year was welcoming a new school, John Morse Waldorf-Inspired K-8, when they moved into the Alice Birney campus. The school and administration have made great improvements there and have reached out to parents and local residents for an integrated community approach - see lead article. We also met our new Sacramento Superintendent, Jonathan
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ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

February, 2011

ALICE BIRNEY - "HUB OF THE COMMUNITY"

That is Mechelle Horning's vision as principal of the Alice Birney Waldorf-Inspired K-8 School, the new-old neighborhood campus. SLPNA interviewed Ms. Horning recently to get a better understanding of the plans and goals for the use of the Alice Birney facility, now that it once again rings with children's laughter. Before getting to the meat and potatoes, it is important to understand how education offerings and philosophy differs in this unique school setting.

Alice Birney is a Waldorf-inspired school. That means the curriculum has been modeled after the Waldorf method that focuses on a balanced education integrating the arts and practical skills, along with academics. An obvious difference is the K-8 span of education, rather than splitting 7th and 8th graders into a separate school. Another difference is "looping" where a teacher remains attached with the class from beginning to end, K-8. Further, there is a strong emphasis on arts, music and practical training classes. At Alice Birney a particular focus on practical training is through gardening and agricultural activities. Finally, parental and student involvement in all school efforts is strongly encouraged - Ms. Horning states that there is "100% parent involvement" at the school.

The school mission, "is to accept children with honor and respect, educate them with love, and prepare them for lives of freedom and responsibility."

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SLPNA Annual Neighborhood Meeting

Wed. March 23 • 7pm - 9pm
Pony Express Elementary School
1250 56th Ave.
See Article - Page 3

President's message, continued...

Raymond, who came and spoke at our annual neighborhood meeting in March. Over 200 South Land Park residents attended that meeting at Pony Express Elementary to get updates from elected officials and local leaders and to give input on priority issues. We have also instituted regular meetings between SLPNA Board members and City Councilmember Rob Fong to discuss these issues that are important to our community.

At the end of 2009 and beginning of 2010 our neighborhood was hit hard by an increase in crime and it became our top item for the year. We held an area wide crime meeting and continually relayed information provided to us from our local POP officers. The neighborhood's response has been incredibly encouraging, as many neighborhood watches have been formed and our SLPNA Facebook page (which now has 287 followers) has often been used for disseminating timely information about crimes. As a result crime has significantly dropped in 2010.

We are very excited for 2011 and the various ways we can together improve our community. The SLPNA Board recently finalized our agenda for the year which will include two neighborhood informational meetings: Cyber Safety – Protecting Your Children Online, and Senior Care – Local Services and Supports Available to the Elderly. We are planning for our first meeting on cyber safety to be held in April or May.

SLPNA wants to continually improve our neighborhood, but we are currently restricted by our lack of manpower. If you want to get involved to help your community then please consider joining SLPNA's leadership team in 2011. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, jlindsey@slpna.org.

Alice Birney article, continued...

There are currently 420 students enrolled in Alice Birney. This is about double the shrinking enrollment when A-B was closed. Plans are to increase enrollment to about 550 students over the next four years, by adding second classes to the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades. There is demand to meet this expansion.

Ms. Horning attended Alice Birney as a child, grades K-3. Her family then moved to the Pocket area. She has her K-8 teaching credential and obtained a Masters Degree from Rudolph Steiner College, the Waldorf training center in Fair Oaks.

The new Alice Birney is a magnet school which means student attendance is not dictated by school boundaries. As such the school, along with its Waldorf heritage, depends heavily on fund raising and grants to fuel its practical and arts specialty classes, as well as physical improvement and beautification. It has a Parent Guild, a non-profit charitable organization, that coordinates fundraising activities. For example, an annual fundraising dinner is being held Saturday March 12 at the school, "Of Earth and Vine". The goal is to raise \$25,000 for music and arts programs. They are soliciting sponsorships to underwrite the evening's activities and tickets are on sale (\$40/person). For further information you can contact the Guild at Alice Birney (see contact information at end of article) or you can register or donate at <https://alicebirney.ejoinme.org/?tabid=251055>.

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CYBERSAFETY SESSION PLANNED

SLPNA is planning sponsorship of a CyberSafety meeting in April or May. In this day and age, there is need for resources for parents, educators and children in staying safe online. Knowing the dangers helps prevent children from being harmed, and knowing safety precautions is a must. Stay tuned for details...

SLPNA ANNUAL MEETING PLANNED MARCH 23RD

The South Land Park Neighborhood Association will conduct its annual neighborhood meeting Wednesday March 23rd at the Pony Express Elementary School in South Land Park. Over 200 SLPNA neighbors attended last year’s meeting. We will again provide important information, from a variety of knowledgeable speakers, addressing the key concerns and issues in our area. Topics such as neighborhood safety, educational plans, public improvements and budgetary constraints will be addressed. Speakers invited to the meeting include:

Mayor Kevin Johnson	City Council Representative Rob Fong
State Assemblymember Roger Dickinson	Superintendent John Raymond, Unified School District
Capt. Dan Schiele, City Police Department	Neighborhood Services Representative

In addition, Board members will be elected for the coming year. Nominations for selection to the Board will also be entertained. Please plan on an early arrival - it was a standing-room-only meeting last year!

REICHMUTH PARK SKATEBOARD FACILITY ADVANCES

The Skateboard park feature in Reichmuth Park, initially reported in November, 2009, is underway and weather permitting will be completed by late March/early April this year. The area is located next to the water pumping plant on Gloria Drive. Here is a rendition of the new park feature.



REICHMUTH PARK CELL TOWER UPDATE

Another new feature in Reichmuth Park will be going up very shortly. Last year the Planning Commission approved a cell tower in the park. It is being constructed by AT&T and will be disguised as a tree (see Spring 2010 Newsletter) immediately behind the tennis courts. Construction will go quickly as the tree “trunk” is expected to be installed in the next couple of weeks, with the remainder of the installation following shortly thereafter. This tower will fill a “hole” in the AT&T wireless network coverage.

Alice Birney, continued...

The Guild and school also hold many other activities at the school, such as a recent Strings Concert, crafts fairs, etc. A very active Alice Birney Facebook page provides further details and information on such activities.

One of the main neighborhood concerns with the school thus far has been the traffic and student-crossing problems immediately before and after regular school hours. With the increased student population, and no bussing, it has created significant traffic problems along 13th Street and in the immediate neighborhood. Ms. Horning reports that she is working with the School Department, City Public Works and Police Department in a traffic calming effort. This includes the use of volunteer traffic guards, parent education, development of "valet" drop-off zones and designated parking areas. The School is very sensitive to these problems and is working diligently to assure they adhere to a "good neighbor" policy.

Ms. Horning has a large site improvement plan on her office wall. This provides a good understanding of the school vision and their effort to become a community hub. Included are plans for classroom expansion, building a gym/multi-purpose facility, expansion of fruit and vegetable garden areas, a small livestock area in the center of the property, increased sports and play facilities and lots of additional tree and shrub planting. Mechelle indicates that she sees, "...Alice Birney becoming a neighborhood focal spot for play, beauty, entertainment and neighborhood festivals. Providing that good old feeling when neighborhood schools were a center of community involvement." More information can be obtained at:

<http://schools.scusd.edu/alicebirney/index.html>

or (916) 433-5544

6251 13th Street

Sacramento, CA 95831

OLD TOWN PARK EXPANSION MAY AFFECT SLPNA RESIDENTS

A public meeting was held on January 19, 2011 by the California Department of Parks and Recreation to present the general plan for an Old Sacramento State Historic Park (OSSHP). The plan has three alternate proposals which include:

- possible extension of the current Old Sacramento Excursion Train route to the City of Hood (in South Sacramento County);
- expansion of Old Sacramento to include a Railroad Technology Museum, new Sacramento River waterfront activities, and Gold Rush era activities;
- adding bike trails and public transportation access to Old Sacramento;
- no increase in available parking.
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Two of three Excursion Train expansion alternatives would use the existing railroad right of way, south of Sutterville Road and Freeport Boulevard, to provide rail service to Hood approximately 12 miles south of our area. The first alternative would provide extension of the current Excursion Train ride from Old Town all the way to Hood, operating 60 days/year. The second alternative would provide expansion of the Excursion Train ride from Freeport to Hood. Rail improvements would be constructed in the same manner as the first alternative (though the SLPNA area) to provide services and equipment movement to the Freeport/Hood ride expansion. The third alternative would provide extension of the current route only to the City Zoo.

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Old Town Park Expansion, continued...

Alternatives 1 and 2 would certainly impact residents in the SLPNA boundaries.

The proposals for the general plan were prepared in coordination with an Advisory Group composed of business and community representatives. However, no neighborhood associations were invited to participate in the Advisory Group.

The meeting was well attended, with the State indicating that this is a 20 year plan. The State committed to obtaining community, resident and neighborhood input throughout the remainder of the plan approval process. SLPNA will provide comments regarding the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in April 2011. These will include concerns over loss of property value for properties affected by train or equipment travel, air quality concerns, noise issues and safety impacts.

SLPNA members are encouraged to provide comments and concerns for the plan proposals to SLPNA Board and the State directly. SLPNA will keep you updated on events for the OSSHP plan approval. You can obtain more information and send comments about the three alternatives for the OSSHP by contacting :

California State Parks, Capital District
111 "I" Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Email: osshp@parks.ca.gov

Or

www.parks.ca.gov/osshp/genplan

Thanks to Mike Ellison, SLPNA Board member, for the information contained in this article.

NEW NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES COORDINATOR

We would like to welcome Janine Martindale as South Land Park's new Neighborhood Services Department representative. She is a wealth of information and an excellent resource regarding city services and organization. She can be reached at 916-808-8193 or jmartindale@cityofscramento.org.

WE NEED BOARD MEMBERS!

SLPNA needs more energy! We currently only have 6 Board members serving on the Board of Directors. We have lots of neat ideas, and certainly many issues to address. But we need help in keeping it all moving forward. Join today. Only a couple of hours a month are required, helping make your neighborhood an even greater place to live. Contact Board president Jordan Lindsay at jlindsey@slpna.org if you are interested.

STREET YARD-WASTE PICKUP DAYS

As a reminder the more frequent street pickup schedule, for those on the yard waste canister program, is now back to the spring/summer timing. The next community-wide street pickup dates are May 25-26/30-31. After that, the next dates are October 25-26-27/31.



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:

South Land Park Neighborhood Association
 Address: P.O. Box 22903
 Sacramento CA 95822

By E-mail: slpna@slpna.org

Website: www.slpna.org

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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