

Villager

The Newsletter of the Lakewood Village Neighborhood Association

Next LVNA General Meeting:

Thursday May 12

at 7:00 p.m. in the Lakewood Park Building

- Sunnyvale Vice Mayor Ron Swegles
- Refreshments will be served

President's Column

- Ursula Syrova, LVNA President

Touring the Trash, Celebrating Earth Day

Last week as part of Sunnyvale's Earth Day celebration there were tours of the SMaRT Station, where our trash, recyclables, and yard waste are taken after those bins you put at the curb once a week are emptied. (SMaRT stands for Sunnyvale Materials Recovery and Transfer.) We've always wanted to go, especially because the station is here in north Sunnyvale, so off we went, expecting a crowd. Well, the bad news was that we were the only ones who showed up for the tour. The good news was that since we were the only ones they were willing to let us take my not-quite-4-year-old daughter on the tour even though the minimum age is supposed to be 10 years old. We were disappointed that there wasn't more interest in the tours, especially since it was during Spring Break. Seeing how the garbage is processed and how the recyclable materials—mixed paper, newspaper, containers, cardboard—are sorted, to be made into new paper and containers made for an interesting tour. Everyone can benefit from learning about how our garbage, trash, and yard waste are processed, and how much of them we generate. A tour of the SMaRT Station is a powerful reinforcement of the concepts of reduce, reuse, recycle!

While there, we saw the goats that keep the grass and weeds chewed down, and therefore reduce the fire hazard, at the former landfill next to the SMaRT Station. They were hard at work.

We also had fun at Sunnyvale's Earth Day celebration at the Plaza del Sol. There was great entertainment for kids and information (and some free samples) for adults. My daughter enjoyed riding the city bus, which

we don't normally do, to get there. Happily, lots of people attended the celebration.

Dumpster Day Planning

Back in the neighborhood here, we are planning our Dumpster Day, probably for July 16, a Saturday. As usual, we need volunteers to help with this event. If you are interested in being a dump bin monitor, please call or e-mail one of the board members and let us know. This event can't happen without volunteers to help!

Pedestrians Needed!

There are still some positions open on the city Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Committee, especially for people who walk a lot. Here are the requirements for those positions:

“The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee includes bicyclists or pedestrians residing and registered to vote in Sunnyvale, or non-Sunnyvale residents with an interest in bicycle and/or pedestrian issues in Sunnyvale and belonging to one of the [following] groups ...: PTA/parent group member—Santa Clara Unified School

► *continued on page 2*

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► *President's Column, continued from page 1*

District/Sunnyvale School District Administration; neighborhood association member; Sunnyvale teacher or principal; person interested in Sunnyvale park and recreational activities.”

If you are interested in joining this committee, go to <http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/City+Council/Boards+and+Commissions/> or contact the City Clerk's office (408-730-7474) or sramos@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us. ■



May in Your Yard and Garden

- Plant frost-tender plants such as citrus and bougainvillea.
- Weed while the weeds are young and the soil is still damp enough to make pulling the weeds easy. Do not let the weeds form seed heads.
- Add young, seed-head-free weeds to the compost pile. Remember to keep the pile as damp as a wrung-out sponge for faster composting.
- Watch out for snails and earwigs, both of which devour seedlings.
- Use a strong spray from the hose to wash away aphids.

- Wrap fruit tree trunks with a sticky tape to control ants, but remember to wrap low so that birds, particularly hummingbirds, will not be attracted.
- Prepare for the coming hot, dry season by applying a mulch. Rice hulls are an excellent, inexpensive soil amendment. Contact a rice growers' cooperative to find the nearest local source.
- Prune spring-blooming plants as they finish blooming. To keep old lilacs vigorous, prune a few of the lilac stems to the ground each year, and prune suckers off grafted varieties of lilacs.
- Fertilize lawns, roses, and all flowering plants about to bloom. Fertilize azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons when they finish blooming. If you did not fertilize them last month, fertilize citrus, trees, and shrubs.
- Plant out summer bulbs such as callas, cannas, dahlias, gladiolus, lilies, tigridia, and tuberous begonias.
- Set out summer-flowering plants.
- Plant the vegetable garden and thin vegetable seedlings that were sown too close together by snipping them with scissors.

These tips are from the book *Northern California Gardening: A Month-by-Month Guide*, by Katherine Grace Endicott, published by Chronicle Books, San Francisco, copyright 1996, and are used with the publisher's permission. ■

Where Does That Free Compost Come From?

Sunnyvale gardeners can get free compost any day of the week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the SMaRT (Sunnyvale Materials Recovery and Transfer) Station. This compost pickup place is especially handy for Lakewood Village residents because it is so close—just off Borregas Avenue, which crosses Caribbean Drive, which is the continuation of Lawrence Expressway. You just take a shovel and some containers for the compost and take as much as you need.

► *continued on page 3*

Compost, continued from page 2

Where does the compost come from? The yard waste you put into your bin for pickup is taken to the SMaRT Station, shredded, and then trucked to Gilroy, where it spends three to four months in rows outside at a facility there. When the composting process is complete, some of the compost is hauled back to the SMaRT Station for giveaway to residents of Sunnyvale as well as Los Altos, Mountain View, and Palo Alto.

Mulch Too

Also available at the SMaRT Station is mulch, made from the yard trimmings collected from curbside. This yard waste has been chopped and sorted, and the resulting material is free for pickup by anyone. This material can be used as mulch, although it may have some weed seeds, or composted into a nutrient-rich soil amendment. Take a shovel and containers to collect this free material.

Learn About Composting

The May 14 compost workshop at the Sunnyvale Community Center will be “Making Your Garden Less Toxic—Pest Management Using Safer Products.” Register for this free workshop, held from 10 a.m. to noon by calling 408-730-7262. ■



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LVNA Meetings

-Skip Gottschalk, LVNA Secretary

April 14 General Meeting

•For Volunteer Night, pizza and beverages were provided and certificates of merit were presented to the attending volunteers. The certificates for the volunteers who weren't there will be delivered to them.

•Disaster preparedness and first aid pamphlets from the Red Cross presentation in March were available (and most were taken by the end of the meeting). It was agreed that the presentation should become an annual LVNA event.

April 28 Board Meeting

•Calendar of events and guest speaker recommendations were discussed. Sunnyvale Vice Mayor Ron Swegles will be the guest speaker at the May 12 general meeting. Newly assigned Public Safety Chief Don Johnson will attend our June meeting, and Mayor Dean Chu is the scheduled speaker for July.

•The board did some preliminary planning for Dumpster Day and National Night Out. Board members will coordinate with the appropriate city departments to confirm dates and resources.

•The board agreed to use bingo nights as fund-raising events, to be scheduled periodically throughout the year. ■

Oops, sorry ...

Lucille Alcaez, your name was accidentally misplaced in the list of LVNA volunteers in the April *Villager*. We apologize.—The Editors

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Letters

Editors' note: The April 27 edition of The Sunnyvale Sun features an article about gangs in Sunnyvale and a boxing program as a deterrent. The article mentions Lakewood and Fairwood specifically. The article is available at <http://www.sunnyvalesun.com>. A lifetime Lakewood Village resident shares her reaction to the article here.

After reading this article, I felt angry and saddened at what I had read. I grew up in this neighborhood, my children, niece and nephew, and now great-nephew have all attended Lakewood School, Columbia (Madrone) School, and Fremont High (Sunnyvale High). All of these different generations have had to defend the reputation of our neighborhood for many years, starting with me. When will it END?

Lakewood and Fairwood are what is called "generational" neighborhoods. Our parents moved here in the late 50s and a lot of us stayed or returned because this is truly a neighborhood. Some of the third generations have had the same teachers that their parents had. We

look out for each other and have many community events that keep us connected.

I have friends who live on the south side of Sunnyvale; we often talk about what Lakewood Village does for its residents, and they wish they had this connection for their children.

I would like for once that the media would also talk about the positive things that go on in our neighborhood. Let's stop giving gangs the extra press. This is what they want!

Judy Fernandez

Response to "Out of Control Parking" letter to the editor (April Villager)

Dear "Homeowner, Manzano Way":

In response to your letter to the editor regarding your mechanic neighbor, he may not be breaking the law by taking up street parking, but he is breaking the law by running a mechanic's shop out of his home. I have dealt with this problem personally at a previous address. It is illegal to run a commercial business in a residential neighborhood for the very reasons you're concerned about, and the city will get involved in such a case. I suggest you call the non-emergency number for Sunnyvale police to report the activity.

A Lakewood Village resident

► more letters

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► Letters, from page 4

Dear Editor,

Update on kindergarten tables:

This month our Lakewood Parent-Teacher Organization and some parents of Lakewood's kindergartners put on a dance and bake sale to raise funds to replace the tables which were destroyed by vandalism earlier this year. Through the valiant efforts of everyone involved and through several private donations, we were able to raise \$1000. We then turned to the Sunnyvale School District for help and spoke with Dr. Ben Picard, Deputy Superintendent. Promptly they matched our funds and we were able to order the tables only a few days later! It would be impossible to list everyone here who helped us reach our goal, but please rest assured that you made a BIG difference! This is our neighborhood, and our school is at the center of it; we all need to take care of them. Please don't hesitate to report suspicious activity if you see it, and hopefully we won't have to pull together because of an unfortunate incident like this again.

Thankfully,

Ann Richardson, Parent of a Lakewood Kindergartner

Dear Editors,

We recently had a flurry of electrical problems, seemed to be caused by power fluctuations, so we called PG&E and requested a man come out and check. He was very thorough, and found a problem with the 55-year-old breakers in my fuse panel. I was able to find replacement switches at Power Breaker Company at 898 Commercial Street in San Jose. Their phone is 408/453-3757. Most of the houses in Lakewood still have the old Zinsco fuse boxes, and they are notorious for having the breakers go bad.

The place in San Jose sells them for about \$15 each.

I enjoy reading your garden column very much; maybe we should remind people they can pick up free compost at the recycling center on Borregas. Just flash your driver's license as you pass the kiosk. FREE!!

Keep up the good work,

Charline Jolly

Lakewood Neighbors

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Better Than Ever!

-Ken Michels

Wow, have you checked out any of the games yet? Our kids are on fire! Lakewood Pony Baseball is proud of our team's performances so far this season. We host a full schedule every Saturday. Games are also being played Monday through Thursday.

Are you ready for the Travis Layfield Memorial Day Tournament? This three day event takes place right in Lakewood Park. More than a dozen teams will compete for the championship, including our own Lakewood Pony All Stars. The tournament is coach pitched for 7 and 8 year olds. These kids can play! Stop by and watch the action. Bring your whole family to the park and cheer on your favorite team. Be entertained by the wackiest emcee in the state, Bob Greene!

Our Snack Shack is open on game days. The food is good—our nachos are world class. You can't beat a Snack Shack hot dog!

In 1984, Steve Garvey of the San Diego Padres became the first first baseman to finish the season with a perfect fielding average of 1.000.

For more information and pictures, check out our Web site: www.lakewoodponybaseball.com. ■

"To the praise of the glory of His grace..."

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Lakewood School Spring Book Sale

-Valerie Torres

Are you looking to stock up on some summer reading for you and your family? Just in time before school lets out and your family will be looking for more to fill their days with, Lakewood School is holding their Spring Book Fair, featuring great books at good prices.

Come to Lakewood Elementary School during school hours the week of May 23 through 27 and browse the titles—there's something for everyone! Picture books for young readers will be available, as well as new fiction chapter books, reference books, books based on movies, and books for parents. Some books are also available in Spanish. Money from the sale will help to buy books for Lakewood School students and teachers.

A special family event will be happening on Wednesday, May 25, when the book sale will be open additional hours, from 6 to 8 p.m., and Lakewood Science Fair projects will be on display in the cafeteria. ■



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Speeding and Traffic Problems Addressed at Reps Meeting

-Faith Rogers

How to deal with speeding cars on local streets? Jack Witthaus, of the Sunnyvale Division of Transportation and Traffic, gave neighborhood association representatives some suggestions at a quarterly meeting on April 25.

Speeding

Report and Complain—First, gather as much information as you can. Note the street, the time of day, a description of the vehicle, and the license plate number, if possible; then call 730-7109 to complain. Sunnyvale doesn't have enough police officers to routinely patrol for speeders, Witthaus said; the Department of Public Safety is complaint driven—no complaints, no action.

Radar Display—A portable radar display unit can be checked out from the Department of Public Safety by Sunnyvale residents for use in their neighborhood. To use one of these units, you need a trailer hitch receiver and a working cigarette-lighter power source on your vehicle. The vehicle and radar unit are parked on the street, and the display shows drivers how fast they are going compared to the speed limit. To check out a display from the Traffic Unit, call 730-7109.

Unusual Signs—Yet another approach is for several residents on a street to post lawn signs, available from the Division of Transportation and Traffic, that remind drivers to slow down or risk getting a ticket, to watch for children playing, and to be aware of pedestrians. Witthaus said that 10 homes constitute a "critical mass" for the best use of the signs. Interested groups should designate a coordinator, who requests and picks up the signs for distribution to the residents, who display the signs in their yards for several weeks. A deposit is required for getting the signs; it is returned

when the signs are returned to Transportation and Traffic. Call Jack Witthaus's office, 730-7330, to reserve signs.

Traffic

Asked about traffic-calming measures in neighborhoods, Witthaus explained that speed bumps cannot be installed on collector streets (such as Lakehaven), which feed traffic to highways and expressways (like Lawrence). Speed bumps and traffic circles slow down emergency vehicles, so Transportation and Traffic staff consider all aspects of the area before deciding whether a street or intersection should be altered to slow down general traffic. ■

City News

Health and Safety Fair, Saturday, May 14, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Columbia Neighborhood Center, 785 Morse Avenue. Featuring: free health screenings, public safety demonstrations, a bike helmet giveaway, bike rodeo, clowns, prizes, and more. For more information, call 730-7599 or e-mail mbromstead@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us.

Boards and Commissions

Are you interested in making a difference in your community? Would you like to become more involved in Sunnyvale issues and government? The City Council is accepting applications through May 20 from civic-minded individuals who would like to serve on advisory boards and commissions.

► *continued on page 8*

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Lakewood Village's 50th

Part 3: Lakewood Village Amenities

-Brian Smithson

In the mid 1950s, Lakewood Village was surrounded mostly by orchards, farms, and undeveloped land. Developed on land that had only been recently annexed from Santa Clara County, it was isolated from the rest of Sunnyvale and its amenities. There were no schools, parks, churches, grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, or any other shops in the

City News, continued from page 7

For more information, go to <http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/City+Council/Boards+and+Commissions/> or contact the City Clerk's office at (408) 730-7474 or sramos@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us.

Parks and Recreation Pottery Studio

Release stress and rejuvenate your creative spirit! Come play with clay in our fully-equipped pottery studio. Located in the Creative Arts Center building on the Sunnyvale Community Center campus, we offer classes for the beginner, as well as open studio times to practice the skills you already have. For more information on studio pricing and hours of operation, call (408) 730-7758.

Summer Employment in Parks and Recreation

The City of Sunnyvale Parks & Recreation is looking for responsible, energetic people (16 years of age and older) to work as recreation leaders, lifeguards, swim instructors, and Summer Express instructors. Applications can be picked up at the Sunnyvale Community Center at 550 East Remington Drive in Sunnyvale, or call (408) 730-7350 for more information. ■

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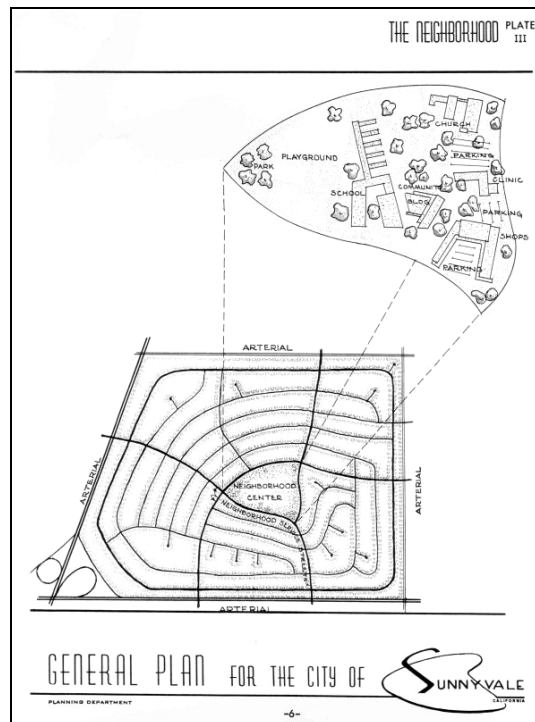
immediate area. You could get some groceries at Coppla Dairy Farm on Lawrence Station Road at Alviso Road, but for most things you had to go to shops on the other side of the Bayshore Highway. Nothing was easy to get to for the young stay-at-home mom in the one-car family that was typical of that time.

Fairwood School was built in 1956, but it wasn't until 1959 that things really began to change: Lakewood Village got its first gas station (Lakewood Shell), its first shopping plaza and supermarket (Dick's Lakewood Plaza), its first church (Lakewood Methodist), and its second school (Lakewood School).

All of these remain today, except that Dick's Plaza has a different name now. By the end of 1960, Dick's Plaza had a beauty salon, sandwich and beer shop, coffee shop, liquor store, drugstore, hardware store, bakery, and dry cleaner. By the mid 1960s, there were three schools (Lakewood, Fairwood, and Bayside), two parks (Lakewood and Fairwood), and two churches (Methodist and Baptist), and a fire station and Holiday Inn had been built nearby.

Lawrence Station Road and the Bayshore Highway in the 1950s would be unrecognizable today. They were only two lanes wide, and there was a simple stoplight

► continued on page 9



In 1957, Sunnyvale's neighborhood concept included a school, community building, clinic, park, playground, church, and shops. Lakewood Village wouldn't get many of those until the 1960s.

► *Amenities, continued from page 8*

at their intersection. It was challenging to make a left turn across traffic on the Bayshore, and it was dangerous for children to cross the Bayshore to get to secondary schools. In the 1960s, an overpass was built as the Bayshore Highway became US Highway 101 and Lawrence Station Road became Lawrence Expressway. In the 1990s, the old cloverleaf-style interchange with US 101 was changed to the half-cloverleaf configuration we use today.

Streets inside Lakewood Village also underwent some changes over time. Four-way stops were introduced near the schools, crosswalk markings were put in place, and a pedestrian overpass was built over Lawrence Expressway. Additional stop signs and markings have been added over the years, usually focusing again on pedestrian safety near our schools.

The land around Lakewood Village was used for a variety of purposes. I have heard about bean fields, Bartlett pear orchards, tomato vines, Shetland ponies, a dirt-track speedway, and a landing field for remote-controlled model aircraft, all within a mile or two of our neighborhood. The land surrounding it is now completely developed, but Lakewood Village still has outdoor recreational areas. Lakewood and Fairwood Parks have been redeveloped several times over the years. The John W. Christian Greenbelt, for many years an unkempt weed patch, is now a landscaped walk/bikeway that runs through the middle of Lakewood Village on top of the Hetch Hetchy water system right-of-way. Less than two miles away, Sunnyvale's Baylands Regional Park provides access to the Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge and the San Francisco Bay Trail.



Construction of the "Million Dollar Shopping Center" was welcome news to Lakewood Village residents in 1959.



This 1955 map shows Unit I with street names. Unit II was also shown but without street names, and mostly open space on all sides.

Some interesting developments almost occurred in or around Lakewood Village. In 1956, General Motors purchased 200 acres at Lawrence and Oakmead, but later sold the property and located its car assembly factory in Fremont instead. In the 1970s, plans to build a slaughterhouse near Tasman Drive were stopped because of an organized campaign by Lakewood Village and nearby residents.

Perhaps the most interesting "almost" development was when plans were made in the late 1950s to open a "country club" in Lakewood Village. It was called the Lakewood Village Aquatic Club, a members-only private development at Manzano and Oak Creek, with two pools for adults and one for children, a clubhouse, an outdoor games area for croquet and horseshoes, and plans for a miniature golf course and tennis courts. People signed up for memberships, there was a ground-breaking ceremony, and I believe that construction began, but it was never completed. Ultimately, more houses were built on that property. ■



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Delivery (Fairwood)	Craig Crawford	walkers@lvna.net	736-7371
Delivery (Lakewood)	Wendy Stanley	walkers@lvna.net	745-1331
http://www.lvna.net/Miscellany/Contact/contact.html			

Internet Links

LVNA Web Site	http://www.lvna.net
Lakewood e-mail list	http://www.topica.com/lists/lakewoodvillage
City of Sunnyvale	http://www.sunnyvale.ca.gov
Sunnyvale Library	http://www.sunnyvalelibrary.org
http://www.lvna.net/Resources/Links/links.html	

Calendar of Upcoming Events

What	Where	When
Street Sweeping	Your street – move your cars!	5/3 Fairwood 5/10 Lakewood 6/7 Fairwood 6/14 Lakewood
Compost Workshop	Sunnyvale Community Center Arboretum	5/14, 10 a.m. – noon
LVNA Meeting	Lakewood Park Bldg.	5/12, 7 p.m.
Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off	Carl Road, near the SMaRT Station	5/21, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
LVNA Villager Editorial Deadline	Contact editor@lvna.net	5/27
http://www.lvna.net/Resources/Calendar/calendar.html		

Important Phone Numbers

Public Safety – Emergency	911
Public Safety – Non-emergency	730-7100
Speeding cars; parking complaints; traffic signal repair; dead animals	Dispatch 730-7180
Noise complaints; homeless complaints; commercial vehicles on residential streets	Desk Officer 730-7110
Illegal storage or buildings; decrepit fences or buildings; weed problems; illegal home businesses; rental housing complaints; commercial vehicles on private property	Neighborhood Preservation 730-7610
City streets, sidewalks, trees, streetlights, street sweeping	Public Works 730-7505
Nuisance vehicle hotline	730-7706
Drug hotline	245-3784
Graffiti hotline	730-7680
Shopping cart pickup	725-1010
Neighborhood liaison	730-7472
http://www.lvna.net/Resources/Phones/phones.html	



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