



ANNUAL REPORT 2007 - 2008

INTRODUCTION

South Vista Communities has continued its work this year to preserve and improve the quality of life for all residents in neighborhoods south of the 78. We count 23 neighborhoods in this area, and we are very pleased to be adding more residents to our e-newsletter list. If you think your neighbor might be interested in receiving our news and information, please pass along our e-mail address (southvistacommunities@cox.net).

SVC is a non-profit corporation, and a major accomplishment this year was its recognition by the IRS as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization; any contributions, therefore, are tax-deductible.

SVC provides a forum for those interested in sharing their concerns and working together. We recognize the elected and appointed officials of the City of Vista as valuable and essential partners in accomplishing common goals and appreciate their interest and assistance.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE - CHAIR, GAR HOUSE

- Diane Nygaard, President of Preserve Calavera, presented information at our September general meeting about the new plan for the Agua Hedionda watershed and gave an update on SANDAG's Habitat Conservation Plan.
- On May 17th, SVC joined with the Building Sustainable Communities group to present a day-long workshop to provide practical guidelines for achieving sustainability at the local community level.

LAND USE AND ZONING COMMITTEE - CHAIR, NICKI HOBSON

- Vista Principal Planner Vicki Parker spoke at our November meeting about the city's General Plan review and the community workshops planned to solicit resident opinions. Several SVC members served on the Biking/Hiking Trails sub-committee of this review process.
- SVC, having previously urged a sit-down restaurant instead of a fast-food facility at the proposed Target Center in the Business Park, supported Preserve Calavera's February environmental appeal of the project, resulting in a much improved project.
- A neighborhood meeting was held in March by Nicki and Richard Hobson to discuss the proposed C-2 and C-3 zoning amendment requiring a special use permit for outdoor uses. An RV-trailer park is proposed for the NE corner of Melrose and Sycamore.
- The Hobsons hosted a second neighborhood meeting in April to review proposed plans for a Marriott Hotel at the NW corner of Melrose and Sycamore. Melrose Square, a commercial center, had previously been approved for this lot.

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMITTEE - CHAIR, GENE FORD

• Much time was devoted this year to requesting improvements for public safety on Shadowridge Drive at Live Oak/Lupine Hills/Columbus/Woodbend Apts. According to statistics from the Sheriff's Dept. and the Fire Dept., 15 automobile accidents occurred at these intersections during 2006 and 2007.

SVC's request for a 3-way stop sign at Live Oak/Shadowridge was denied in February, but the City Council asked for a report from the Traffic Dept. on how to improve safety here; the report will be presented May 27th at the City Council meeting.

• Thanks to Crime Prevention Specialist Carmela Lutz, timely and effective CrimeStopper Tips have been provided for SVC's newsletter each month.

QUALITY OF LIFE

• What impacts your quality of life? At SVC's October meeting, Vista Code Enforcement Manager Dave Wilson explained what problems his department can handle and what issues should be referred to another community resource. See SVC's website (www.southvistacommunities.org) for a list of common code problems managed by this department.

• Looking to the quality of health care, in January Larry Schallock, chairman of the Tri-City Hospital Board, spoke to us about the new hospital master plan and the proposed bond issue for new construction.

• SVC has continued to work with Vista's Code Enforcement Dept. to maintain the cleanliness and attractiveness of the retail areas at the Shadowridge / Sycamore intersection. As one of the major gateways to our community, it is vital that this area remains welcoming to visitors and residents alike.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Organizationally, one of SVC's goals is to have a representative from each South Vista neighborhood serving on its Board of Directors. In that way, we all can share issues and explore solutions together. If you are interested in actively assisting South Vista, please let us know.

In its role as a quality of life spokesman, SVC will continue to work with private individuals, corporations, and City of Vista representatives to consider new plans and proposals, and to address problems as they arise. We look forward to the completion of the City's and community's review of the General Plan.

In the coming year, we look forward to:

- The beginning of the improvements for Thibodo Road, spearheaded by Leslie Jantz.
- The second clean-up of Buena Vista Creek in the Shadowridge/Sycamore area, scheduled for September 20th as part of the regional "I Love a Clean San Diego" effort. This event is chaired by Jim Fraker, and volunteers are needed and welcome.
- The completion of Vista Fire Station #5 at Melrose and Green Oak Road, now under construction – as well as the installation of a much-desired traffic signal at that intersection.
- The proposal of a Hyatt Hotel at Melrose / Faraday.

South Vista Communities is **your** organization. We invite your comments, suggestions, questions, and involvement. **TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

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