



JANUARY - 2011
SOUTH VISTA NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

South Vista Communities is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose purpose is to maintain and enhance the quality of life for all South Vista residents.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

February general meeting: meet Vista's new mayor

Join us on Thursday, February 17, to meet **Mayor Judy Ritter** and to hear her thoughts about the future and plans for our community, particularly as they relate to South Vista. The meeting is open to the public and will be held at the Shadowridge Country Club at 7 p.m. There will be opportunity for questions from the audience.

Bring a friend and we'll see you there!

KEEP VISTA'S STREET LIGHTS ON!

We Vista residents are being asked to sign petitions to indicate support for a **citywide** vote to increase property taxes which fund street lights throughout Vista.

- Vista needs its street lights on — all the lights, every night, throughout Vista. Lack of lighting creates a real and a perceived public safety problem.
- It has been 14 years since the last property tax increase for lighting.
- The proposed increase will be \$4 to \$20 annually, depending on the size of the property. ***Fourteen years ago, the property tax funded street lights 100%; the property tax has stayed the same, but utility costs have risen.***



(Photo by [<http://www.olegvolk.net> Oleg Volk])

Petitions: At least 2,500 (or, 10%) of Vista property owners must sign petitions indicating support for the initiative by June 30, in order for the City to undertake a mail-in ballot process to approve the tax increase. Half of the street lights are scheduled to be turned off on March 13 unless sufficient petitions are received by that date; if so, the lights will stay on until the mail-in vote is tallied.

- **A petition is attached to this newsletter.** Print it out, sign it, and send it in: City Clerk's office at 200 Civic Center Drive, Vista CA 92084. Sign it and ask your neighbors to sign ... or forward this newsletter to your neighbor.

Adequate lighting is a significant part of our quality of life. Help keep our street lights on — sign the petition, encourage your neighbors to sign, and turn the petitions in by March 1st.

COMMUNITY BUDGET MEETINGS

The City of Vista is inviting the public to one of three community meetings to discuss the citywide budget and to gather feedback before the 2011-12 budget process begins.

Community input is needed on: 1) prioritization of services and service levels and 2) sustaining high-priority items.



Community Budget Meetings — 6:30 p.m.

Monday, January 10	Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace Drive
Tuesday, January 18	Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Avenue
Monday, January 24	RBV High School Theater, 1601 Longhorn Drive

GRAFFITI

In response to several questions about dealing with graffiti, persons wishing to report graffiti should call the Public Works hotline at 760-726-1340 ext. 1611 (a recording), or they can call Susan in Public Works at 760-639-6171. You should have the address or specific location when reporting graffiti.



Safeguard Your House

Did you know that most residential burglaries...

- are committed during the daytime,
- are accomplished within 3 to 5 minutes, and
- in 6 of 10 completed burglaries, the burglar gained entry through an unlocked door or open window.

Remember to always close and lock your doors and windows, even if you are going to be gone for a few minutes. Have adequate exterior lighting (either photo-electric or motion-activated) and trim shrubbery to provide clear visibility.

For more tips on how to secure your home, download a free copy of our Home Security Guide by clicking on the following link http://www.sdsheriff.net/documents/home_security_guide.pdf or by calling your local Crime Prevention Specialist Carmela Lutz at (760) 940-4353.

SOUTH VISTA COMMUNITIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Street light petition is on the following page ...

PETITION TO FORM A REPLACEMENT LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING MAINTENANCE DISTRICT IN THE CITY OF VISTA

On November 9, 2010, the City Council voted to ask Vista property owners to petition the City to form a citywide replacement Landscaping and Lighting Maintenance District for streetlights, traffic signals, and landscaping. The new district would include increased fees to cover the rising operational costs of maintaining the districts. The present District does not collect enough money to fund the current benefit levels and the City has planned to turn off residential street lights to reduce the costs. If a new district were formed, the present district would be abolished. The adopted plan adopted requires that approximately 10 percent of the property owners petition the City by June 30, 2011, to form a new district that will include increased annual fees (estimated to be up to a 30 percent increase or between \$4 and \$20 per year per residential properties, depending on the benefit zones the property is located in). If sufficient petitions are received, the City Council will then take the steps necessary to have the mail ballot election which is required to form the new district. It will cost in excess of \$100,000 to hold the district election. **Because each assessment is linked to property, only property owners can submit a petition.**

- 1. Name _____ Address/Zip _____
Signature: _____ I certify that I am the property owner of the above address in the City of Vista
- 2. Name _____ Address/Zip _____
Signature: _____ I certify that I am the property owner of the above address in the City of Vista
- 3. Name _____ Address/Zip _____
Signature: _____ I certify that I am the property owner of the above address in the City of Vista
- 4. Name _____ Address/Zip _____
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- 7. Name _____ Address/Zip _____
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- 8. Name _____ Address/Zip _____
Signature: _____ I certify that I am the property owner of the above address in the City of Vista
- 9. Name _____ Address/Zip _____
Signature: _____ I certify that I am the property owner of the above address in the City of Vista
- 10. Name _____ Address/Zip _____
Signature: _____ I certify that I am the property owner of the above address in the City of Vista

DECLARATION OF PERSON CIRCULATING PETITION: I, _____ declare; my residence address is _____ and I am a property owner. I personally circulated this petition for signing.

Please mail or drop off: Vista Civic Center: City Clerk, 200 Civic Center Drive, Vista CA 92084

