

SLNA: September Meeting Recap

Neighbors,

Thank you to all who were able to attend our SLNA meeting in Silver Leaf Park last Wednesday. I know everyone is busy, so it means a lot to the board when we get a crowd. Speaking of busy, it's been almost a week, and I'm finally sending out the information we covered. (Sorry!)

The board wanted to thank Stacie from Councilmember Kalra's office for speaking to us on the issues important to us. As usual, she remained cool and poised during her "grilling" from us all. If nothing else, the City knows we have a passion for pushing issues we feel are important.

We began by reminding everyone of our recent past success since our last meeting:

- At long last, we had a second wave of traffic calming on Silver Leaf near the Ford Road end. We have 2 additional speed bumps just before the bend. Also, the painted stripes along the parked cars narrows the street, which historically slows drivers. The sad part of this is that speeders are from our neighborhood. Anyone old enough to remember Pogo's "We have met the enemy, and he is us?"
- Many of you complained about the 18-wheelers parked along the railroad tracks over night and over the weekends. Ash's team pushed for the No Trespassing signs installed which ended our problem.

Ash is still pushing hard for the Monterey repaving, and it is moving forward...slowly. The project will be prioritized at an upcoming City Council Meeting. He is encouraging us to attend that night in force and help him push the repaving to the top of the list. We'll post a date when we learn. Thank you Debbie of the SLNA Board for making this your personal campaign.

The buildings being erected the other side of Monterey on the old Hitachi plant brought in a lot of emails from you all. The first structure immediately opposite Flintwell is the new police substation. As you can guess, the planning and budgeting process takes years and years, and when this was approved, the economy was strong. The building is being finished, but will stay empty until next year. The other building, opposite Tennant, is a data storage facility. Pretty big facility when you realize I can store my 454 cd's on one iPod and still have room for photos of grandkids.

The City has arranged for painting the soundwalls surrounding our neighborhood to standardize on colors and hide the blotches left from earlier graffiti removal. They will be beige walls with brown posts. CAN YOU OFFER YOUR WATER TAP for power wash spraying? They're estimating the cost to you will only be about \$3 that month. We want to start right away, but we're trying to line up the water. Please send us an email with your address if you will allow the painters to use your tap. Again, thank you Ash's team, for taking that extra step to help resolve the repairs. You may not know this, but the wall is owned by the home owners beside it. Those folks are legally responsible to make any repairs. However, one section was damaged by a car crash on Monterey, which shifts to the driver for repairs. Obviously, that never happened. Stacie tracked down the case number and forwarded it to the Department of Transportation. The repair should happen very soon!

SLNA received another grant, which means we will be able to schedule another DUMPSTER DAY. Stay tuned for the date. It should be occurring in October.

Saturday, September 25, there will be the Grand Opening of the Edenvale Community Center on East Branham near the new library. It has a basket ball court, dance studio, gym and day care center. Come

on out between noon and 3pm.

The District 2 Quarterly Community Meeting is on Thursday, September 30th at the Edenvale Library (Branham and Monterey). We'll start at 6.30pm and run through approximately 8.30.

The pedestrian bridge is finally coming!! VTA has the bid out to contractors with a hopeful scheduled ground breaking in December or January. It should be complete by the fall of next year.

As you might guess, the High Speed Rail was the hot topic for the evening. We owe our thanks to Randy Froh (SLNA President) for staying on top of the issue and attending the many meetings. Believe it or not, the voice of the community is being heard and having an impact. The project is being pushed by the federal and state governments, as well as the San Jose for the needed infrastructure improvement and jobs. Regardless, they've made several changes based on feedback. Of primary interest to you who border Monterey, there will be NO eminent domain, meaning nobody will lose their home. There were rumors earlier in the year about an elevated rail going over Blossom Hill and Bernal, which is not true. Another concern was that Monterey will be reduced to one lane each direction, which also is not true. So, some progress. The project has had to take another look at the San Jose to Gilroy stretch to review our other concerns: noise of trains every 6 to 10 minutes, the appearance of 18 foot walls, 20 foot electrical towers, additional isolation, and overall safety. We are encouraged to go to the HSR website for the latest plans and schedule for community meetings. We have a link on our website, www.slina.org.

Again, thanks to you who broke away from the television to hear first hand what's going on.

David Wilkins

"Make up your mind to act decidedly and take the consequences. No good is ever done in this world by hesitation." Thomas Henry Huxley