

The Fair Oaks American River Gateway Neighborhood Association

Fair Oaks, California

September 2012

ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC AND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE PARK!

Save the Date: Saturday October 6, 2012, 12 P.M.

The Fair Oaks American River Gateway Neighborhood Association will hold its 4th Annual Picnic at the Sacramento Bar-Sunrise Access Park located at the bottom of Pennsylvania Road on Saturday, October 6, 2012 at 12:00 P.M. The Annual FOARG Membership Meeting and election of next year's directors will occur at the end of the picnic!

Food and drinks are free and we will hold a raffle for fun prizes. Bring your entire family for a nice afternoon in the park!

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

What's Going on in the Neighborhood?

Vikki Walker, President

Two years ago when I noticed a poster on my street about a neighborhood picnic at Sacramento Bar and my daughter suggested we check it out and meet some of our neighbors; I never would have imagined I would serve as President of a neighborhood association. But that first picnic I offered to join the Board and found that experience very rewarding and was honored to serve as President this last year of the Fair Oaks American River Gateway Neighborhood Association.

When I look back I am so thankful to the residents of this neighborhood who were "awake" enough to organize when the planned project "The Pointe" threatened the quality of our life style, because now I have wonderful new friends and neighbors that I know I can call on if needed.

Even though all we might do for the neighborhood these days, is produce this possibly boring newsletter and sponsor an annual picnic, which serves as the association general meeting, I consider those activities worthwhile, if it keeps us all in touch with each other in some small way.

The Board does continue to meet monthly so that we can stay abreast of what is going on in our little corner of Fair Oaks; such as the property on New York Avenue that became an eyesore as a dumping ground. Neighbors reported the problem and the County started to clean it up. And we will continue to attempt to contact the owner in order to find out what lead to this situation and if the association can help in any way.

I look forward to seeing old and new faces at the Annual Picnic on Saturday, October 6th. There are always vacancies to be filled on the Board, so please know you are welcome to participate.

SUPERVISOR SUSAN PETERS VISITED OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

By Michael Faber

In March, the FOARG Board hosted an evening coffee with our new Supervisor, Susan Peters. The event was attended by about 20 neighbors at the home of Michael Faber. Susan Peters initially became our County Supervisor, instead of Roberta McGlashan, as a result of reapportionment. In June, she was re-elected by the voters of her new district.

We had a chance to mingle with her, get to know her priorities, and introduce her to our FOARG organization and its goals. There was good food and good fellowship.

If you would like to get to know our new Supervisor, she runs a monthly breakfast meeting at Diandras Italian Bakery and Cafe in Old Towne Fair Oaks at 10131 Fair Oaks Blvd. Fair Oaks, on the third Wednesday of most months from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. For more info on scheduling, see <http://www.bos.sacounty.net/District3/Documents/FairOaksCommunityCoffeeMeetings.pdf>.

LET'S EXPAND NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH!

By Roger Smith

Some parts of the FOARG area are not covered by Neighborhood Watch (NW) programs. Is there a need for more coverage? Absolutely! NW programs help prevent burglaries and other crimes by encouraging neighbors to be vigilant, know each other, and report suspicious persons and activities to the sheriff.

Currently, there are five programs operating in the FOARG area: (1) Magnolia Ave west of New York Ave and Minnesota to Doneva Ave is coordinated by Clara Jewell (967-6156); (2)

Southcliff Dr and Tobia Way is coordinated by Mark Bean (965-1931); (3) Oak Hurst Circle and Valley View Ct is coordinated by Joe Dobrowolski (961-6561); (4) New York Ave

south of Magnolia Ave, Mt Diablo Ct, and Oriana Ct is coordinated by Mike Bowling (961-5611); and (5) Orangewood Drive, Deborah Lane, and the south side of Magnolia between New York and Orangewood is coordinated by Roger Smith (961-4470). If you live in one of these areas and want to learn more about NW, please contact the appropriate coordinator.

The remaining areas needing coverage are (1) Pennsylvania Ave, Portofino Ct, Villa Ct, and Howard St; (2) Magnolia from New York Ave to Pennsylvania Ave; and (3) New York Ave between Fair Oaks Blvd and Magnolia Ave. Let's get something started in these areas. We need someone in each of these areas to talk to your neighbors, be the catalyst, volunteer, and then contact Sherrie Carhart of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Dept at 916-536-9876 or scarhart@sacsheriff.com. You may also contact one of the coordinators from the existing programs to help you get started. When you have a meeting, please let Roger Smith (961-4470) know so that he can add your area to the FOARG list of NW programs.

Important reminders for NW: (1) Be alert, learn to recognize suspicious activities, and immediately report any crime in progress to the sheriff at 875-5111; (2) Know your neighbors, talk to them, and watch out for each other. Sherrie recommends adding the sheriff's number to your cell phone!

In these times of budget cuts to our law enforcement, citizen participation in the defense of our neighborhoods is more important than ever!

GET UPDATES BY E-MAIL!

If you would like to receive updates regarding quickly occurring events affecting our neighborhood, please send us your e-mail address! You may e-mail mfaber@elkgrove.net.

RIVER RAT ZONING UPDATE

By Wes Trunnell

About three years ago the County discovered that the River Rat was violating the zoning code in that their buses and rafts were being improperly stored. The County has been pursuing a course to correct this zoning violation. The basic issue is that parcels zoned as residential cannot be used for commercial purposes. The storage of the buses and rafts is a commercial use. The final resolution by the County is as follows:

- The parcel was rezoned from RD-5 (Single-family) to LC (Limited Commercial).
- The only permitted uses allowed are to be related to outdoor storage or ancillary activities related to a raft rental business. No other commercial uses are allowed.
- The existing 6-foot wood fence will remain instead of constructing a masonry wall.
- A single-family home may be built on the property.
- Public street improvements will be deferred to maintain the rural atmosphere of the neighborhood.
- No parcel merger will be allowed between APNs: 242-0195-045 and 242-0195-004.

One final note, Mr. Calvin said that he is not allowing customers to park on the lot. This encourages people to use the Sacramento Bar parking, allowing the county to collect a parking fee.

We are delighted with the outcome of this rezone and hope Mr. Calvin has much continued success with the River Rat.

WEED WHACKING TO PROTECT PEDESTRIANS

By Michael Faber

The state of the dangerous path down Pennsylvania Ave to the River was the subject of FOARG Board discussion. In the late Spring, sticker weeds grow right up to the road pavement, forcing pedestrians, to walk in the middle of the road as they amble towards the River. This creates a dangerous condition, for pedestrians, their dogs, and drivers. Rather than hit the County up for weed abatement, several FOARG board members gave up a Saturday morning to whack weeds along the County Right of Way, in order to give pedestrians a little more elbow room for their strolls.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of June 2012, we had \$2,100.00 in the FOARG treasury.

OUR 2011-2012 OFFICERS

President: Vikki Walker

Vice President: Biba Maletic

Secretary: Bob Boyd

Treasurer: Clara Jewell

Board Member: Toby Spencer

Board Member: Michael Faber

Board Member: Don Yost

Board Member: Roger Smith

Board Member: Wes Trunnell

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC ANNUAL MEETING

SACRAMENTO BAR AMERICAN RIVER ACCESS PARK

Saturday, Oct. 6, 2012 at 12:00 noon.

Picnic, Elect Board Members for Next Year, Reports to Membership, and New Business from the Membership.

FOARG MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

TBA-CALL MICHAEL FABER AT 686-7020 FOR LOCATIONS

6:30-7:30, FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Board meets regularly to discuss events of neighborhood

And actions to be taken by organization. Residents

Welcome.

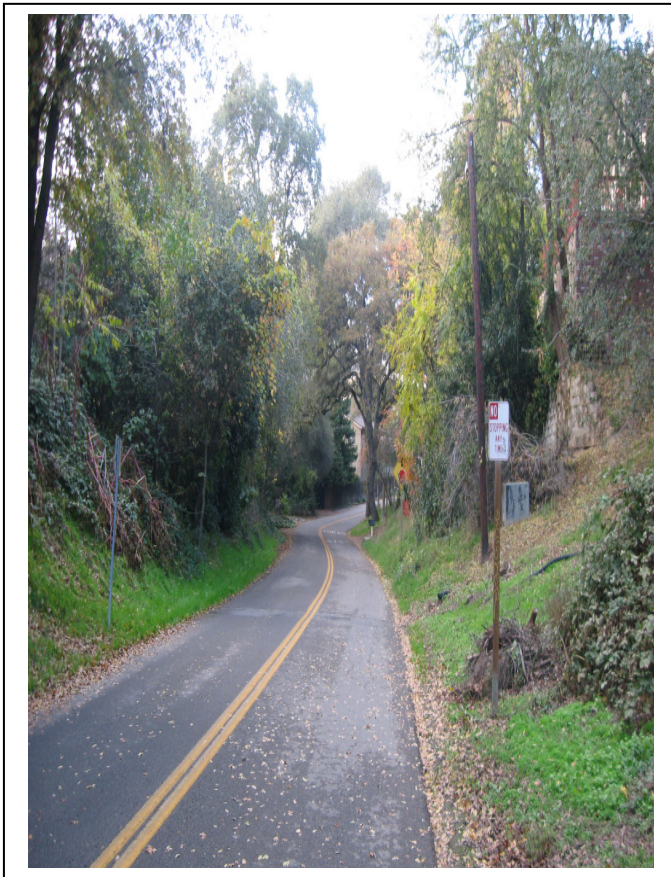
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

www.fo-gateway.org

FAIR OAKS WATER RATE CONTROVERSY

By Bob Boyd

On August 23, 2011, the Fair Oaks Water District sent a notice of public hearing to its customers. Due to the completion of the meter installation program, the flat rate billing will now be based on consumption, beginning 1 Jan 2012. The projected rate increase would have increased the district's revenue by 9.0%. The effect of this increase on individual rate payers would vary based on lot sizes and usage. Individuals with large lots would be looking at sizeable increases. The first public hearing was held on 12 September 2011 at the district's new facility. FOARG sent observers to both observe, participate and report on the proceedings. So many people attended from the community, that there was not room to accommodate them. A majority of attendees opposed the increase and those unable to get in the building to express their views were upset. The board scheduled a follow-up hearing, 10 October 2011, at the larger Fair Oaks Community Center. Once again the sentiment was negative to such a large initial increase and the justification presented by the district's General Manager Tom Gray did not appease the attendees. Another hearing was scheduled for 24 Oct 2011. At that meeting, it became apparent the district's customers were not satisfied with the justification for the size of the rate increase. The Board decided to relook at their numbers and come back with some sort of compromise proposal. On 14 November 2011 a compromise was reached, with the board agreeing to a phased in rate increase of 3.0% starting in 2012, with the possibility of further increases subject to later public hearings. The General Manager Tom Gray said "We listened to our customers and proposed phasing it in". This goes to show that if you get involved in local issues, you can make a difference!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To become an Active Member of FOARG Please fill out and return the below.
\$20.00 annual membership dues optional but highly appreciated.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone
Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please Mail to
Bob Boyd-FOARG Secretary
3927 New York Ave.
Fair Oaks, CA 95628