



FROM THE FIELDS

A Newsletter of the Los Olivos-Riker Neighborhood Association

March/April 2011

www.lorneighborhood.com



LORNA News – Announcements, Events, Reportage

COMMUNITY GRANT

The Community Foundation for Monterey County (CFMC) announced that 2011 grants are now available for grassroots groups through the annual Neighborhood Grants Program (NGP).

NGP funding supports technical assistance and training to qualified applicants in Monterey County who organize and act cooperatively to improve the well-being, safety, and overall quality of life in their neighborhoods.

Grants range between \$1,000 and \$4,000 per group. In addition to the funding, CFMC staff will be available to assist and facilitate the groups with leadership and project management training and coaching throughout the year.

LORNA representatives recently attended a CFMC-sponsored workshop for the purpose of submitting an application for funding. After much spirited deliberation, the LORNA grant team, led by **Cynthia Shaffer**, announced the decision to seek primary funding for an itemized list under the *Neighborhood Watch* umbrella, and the application has been completed and submitted. The team is also considering a grant-matching program, depending on the success of the CFMC/NGP grant process.

Stay tuned for more on this important process. For more information, visit the Foundation's website at www.cfmco.org.



VERY SPECIAL NEIGHBORS

Madonna Manor, located at 1335 Byron Drive, provides a rewarding, independent lifestyle that offers its residents the freedom to pursue their interests independently or with new friends.

Owned and operated by the California Catholic Daughters of America Home, Inc., Madonna Manor is independent and assisted living at its very best.

LORNA wishes to acknowledge and thank **Sister Benedicta**, **Sister Regina**, and **Sister Roberta Ann**, all of whom take time from their good work to attend LORNA meetings and are very supportive of the association. Madonna Manor, *where unity and charity equals aging with grace*.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Submitted by Cynthia Shaffer

Some folks have been asking, "What's the difference between *Los Olivos-Riker Neighborhood Association (LORNA)* and *Los Olivos-Riker Neighborhood Watch (LORNW)*?"

Answer: LORNW is a committee of LORNA.

Each of the six committees has its own set of projects, as follows:

- **Neighborhood Watch**
All things safety and security are handled by LORNW
- **Neighborhood Improvement**
Current beautification projects and anything dealing with upkeep of our neighborhood
- **Neighborhood Communication**
The newsletter and means to communicate with each other
- **Membership**
Informing neighbors of the benefits of being a LORNA member and delivery of the "PROUD MEMBER" yard signs
- **Internet Operations**
Our website at www.lorneighborhood.com
- **Activities**
Organizing events such as the BBQ/Yard sale and Kipling Fall Festival

Since we are an all-volunteer organization, we're always looking for folks who are willing to lead/help out on the committees. Please let us know what you are interested in and we'll get you plugged in!

PET PEEVE

Submitted by Residents of Los Olivos Village



Los Olivos Village townhome complex boasts a beautiful greenbelt area for its residents to enjoy. Neighborhood children play there, and it has also become a popular location for neighbors to walk their pets. Unfortunately, many walkers do not pick up their pets' poopies.

Residents ask pet owners to please be considerate and pick up the poopies left there by your dogs, bison, velociraptors, Komodo dragons, or any other species. Thank you for your consideration!



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COLMO DEL RODEO PARADE

Yeehaw! LORNA cowboys and cowgirls love a parade. After the success of the fun and festive Holiday Parade of Lights, LORNA wranglers are working on a plan to enter a float in the Salinas Rodeo parade. The family-friendly and entertaining parade, scheduled for July 16th, was reinstated in 2010 after many years as part of the Centennial Anniversary celebration of California Rodeo Salinas.

This year, the annual Kiddie Kapers parade will take place at 6:30 pm with the Colmo Del Rodeo parade starting at 8:00 pm, and LORNA buckaroos will be ready to saddle up. Watch for upcoming news about this exciting event!

SALINAS UNITED 2011

LORNA residents are invited to participate in a city-wide walk for health and safety, scheduled for Saturday, April 2nd, beginning at 9:00 am. Join other members of the community as they team with local City Council members to help build a stronger community. Walks are being set up from various churches and neighborhoods to the nearest local fire stations.

LORNA neighbors will have a chance to enjoy a pancake breakfast, equipment displays, and tours with **Steve McShane** at Salinas Fire Station #1, located at 216 W. Alisal. Volunteers are needed to set up the breakfast and coordinate other activities at the fire station. Look for a flyer or visit the LORNA website for updated information.

VILLA SERRA REMINDER

Villa Serra reminds its neighbors that, due to events and/or remodeling, there are times when their employees have to park on Chaucer Drive or Padre Drive. Employees are usually easily identifiable due to their uniforms: black pants and white shirts for kitchen and wait staff; tan work shirts or smocks and tan pants for housekeeping and maintenance staff; and burgundy smocks and tan pants for our assisted living staff. Villa Serra and LORNA appreciate your understanding.

LORNA MEETINGS

Association meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of each month at Villa Serra. Business begins at 7:30 pm. All are welcome, so please come and join your neighbors!

MONTEREY COUNTY CLEAN UP DAY

The 6th Annual Monterey County Cleanup Day is set for Saturday, April 16, beginning at 8:00 am. This yearly community cleanup effort coincides with Earth Day each year. The project began as a way to combat illegal dumping, and has grown to become a popular community event. Last year, cleanup sites ranged from Del Monte Beach in Monterey to Natividad Creek Park in Salinas, and the event drew more than 1500 volunteers countywide working in more than 33 different areas around the county.

Those wanting to participate can sign up individually or in groups, and can choose a target area for their cleanup efforts. Call **Gabriela Carbajal** at **755.8909**.

MEGA YARD SALE and BBO



Thanks to the leadership in Zone 8, the date has been set for LORNA's second annual yard sale and annual meeting. We've planned our **Mega Yard Sale and BBQ** for Saturday, June 25th on Riker Circle, beginning at 8:00 am. Save the date!

In addition, at 11:00 am, we will convene our brief annual meeting where residents will learn about our finances and vote on our incoming leadership team.

Residents are invited to RSVP for a small plot where they will be able to set up for a community yard sale. Should they choose, some or all of their proceeds will go to the Neighborhood Association.

Festivities will include DJ music, games and contests, bounce house, raffle, and some fabulous barbecue right after the annual meeting. LORNA will spring for the hot dogs, hamburgers, and veggie burgers, and attendees are encouraged to bring side dishes and desserts to share. We are also looking for prizes.

To sign up for a yard sale plot, donate prizes, or volunteer, contact **Steve McShane** at **970.4141** or steve@mcshanesnursery.com.

Last year's event was epic, so don't miss this one. Come out and enjoy great neighbors, fun games, and fantastic food!

WANTED: NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Readers of *From the Fields* are invited to submit content – which is subject to screening and editing, of course – and are encouraged to become regular contributors. Send interesting and inspirational ideas to the editors at kiprob@comcast.net.



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Eyes and Ears – The Watch, the Neighborhood, the Police

FROM THE WATCH CHAIR

Dear Neighbors,

I was saddened to read about this because it took place in our very own Zone 13 – The Pointe at Westlake.

Salinas Police Department's Narcotics Unit served a search warrant at 60 Stephanie Drive, Apt. C203, the residence of Roberto Lopez Jr., 33, and Rebeckah Hensley, 34. During the search of the house, detectives found .6 grams of methamphetamine and a methamphetamine smoking pipe in Hensley's purse. Detectives also found a stolen, loaded, Smith and Wesson 9mm pistol in Lopez's truck. Lopez is a known gang member and ex-parolee and convicted felon. He was booked into Monterey County Jail for being a gang member and convicted felon in possession of a firearm, possession of a stolen firearm, and possession of a loaded concealed firearm in a vehicle. Hensley was booked in the Monterey County Jail for possession of methamphetamine and a smoking pipe.

(2/18/2011 Press Release from the Salinas Police Department via its RSS feed. To subscribe, go to: <http://news.salinaspd.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=RSS>)

It is imperative we stay alert and vigilant... EYES AND EARS!

~Cynthia~ 831.809.4929 cyfly@version2dot1.com

NEIGHBORHOOD-ORIENTED POLICING

Submitted by Cynthia Shaffer

To some, Neighborhood Watch is a joke. I am willing to bet, however, that if I'm your next door neighbor and a moving truck pulls up to your house in the middle of the day, you would want me to call in the suspicious activity to the police.

How do I know you're not moving? Because we took a little time to meet at a Neighborhood Watch gathering to learn about each other so we're able to identify what's out of place with respect to what our neighborhood considers acceptable activity.

During the first meeting of the *Los Olivos-Riker Neighborhood Watch* in March 2010, we were informed that there had been a shooting in east Salinas. The next day's headlines revealed a six-year-old boy had been shot and killed, dramatically reminding me that what we were attempting to do was not a waste of time or a joke.

Rewind to 2009 when a rash of burglaries caused residents to form the *Monterey Park Neighborhood Watch*. Rewind further to 2007, when a person dying on the street caused residents in east Salinas to form the *Eagle Drive and Bison Way Neighborhood Association*. Fast forward to today, as LORNA and its Neighborhood Watch continue to grow and evolve as we celebrate our first anniversary.

The neighborhood-oriented policing philosophy of Salinas Police Chief **Louis Fetherolf** includes fixing the responsibility for crime and problem-solving as a shared responsibility between police and community members. Neighborhood Watch fits right in with the Chief's philosophy.

Removing the divide between the police and the people results in lower crime in the neighborhoods that choose to be deliberate about partnering with the police. Neighborhood Watch is the change agent in how, together, we build a safe, secure, and viable neighborhood.

NEW AREA COMMANDER



LORNA welcomes our new area commander and native son, **Stan Cooper**, to the south side, replacing Commander **Terry Heffington**, who has been assigned to the east side of the city. We look forward to nurturing our relationship with Commander Cooper to make our community even stronger and more secure. Welcome Commander Cooper!

Many thanks to Commander Heffington for the excellent support and leadership she provided.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Dale Fors is the Salinas Police Department Officer of the Year for 2010. Officer Fors has been with the department for seven years, during which he served as a patrol officer, field training officer, gang enforcement officer, and a member of the SWAT team and Violence Suppression Unit. Officer Fors also received several commendations throughout the year.

LORNA presented a letter of congratulations and thanks along with some cookies to honor Officer Fors for his outstanding achievement. Well done, sir!



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THANKS, KUDOS, ACCOLADES

- Thank you to **Melissa Mears** for graciously printing the newsletter...again!
- Special thanks to **Renae Gerhardstein** and **Villa Serra** for their generosity and continuing support



CONDOLENCES

- To **Glenys Sollid** on the loss of her father
- To the family and friends of **Kyle Beardshear**, who passed away from injuries sustained in a bicycle accident



SUPPORT and ENCOURAGEMENT

- To **Steve McShane** as Steve's father **Tom** battles dire health challenges
- To **Bill Slezak** as Bill continues his fight to overcome a serious health situation
- To **Don Jones** as Don continues to undergo treatment for a severe health condition
- To **Jeff Walbeck** of **Madonna Manor** as he recovers from a very serious cycling accident



LORNA WEBSITE

It's alive! Visit and browse www.lorneighborhood.com for news and information about Neighborhood Watch, membership, meetings, and events. The site is constantly evolving so visit often.



Who do I call if...?

I hear a dog barking incessantly?	<i>Animal Services</i>	758.7285
I need a building permit?	<i>Engineering & Transportation</i>	758.7251
I have a conflict to resolve?	<i>Monterey County Mediation Center</i>	649.6219
I need a permit for a garage sale or yard sale?	<i>Finance Department</i>	758.7211
I need to dispose of hazardous materials?	<i>Household Hazardous Waste Facility</i>	758.7928
I hear a loud party or have a noise complaint?	<i>Salinas PD Non-Emergency</i>	758.7321
I need a birth certificate or marriage license?	<i>Monterey County Clerk Recorder</i>	755.5041
I want to report a street light outage?	<i>Environmental & Maintenance Services</i>	758.7989
I want to report trash, junk, or debris?	<i>Monterey County Health Department</i>	755.4500
I want to report an abandoned vehicle?	<i>Abandoned Vehicle Office</i>	758.7316

Visit the City of Salinas website at <http://www.ci.salinas.ca.us/who2call.cfm> for these numbers and more.

HAPPY  **LORNA and LORNW!**