



FROM THE FIELDS

A Newsletter of the Los Olivos-Riker Neighborhood Association

Third Quarter 2011

www.lorneighborhood.com

LORNA News, Announcements, and Reportage from the South Side

A MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors,

As new and renewal LORNA memberships are steadily coming in, I am reminded of our modest beginnings back in March 2010. Before then I knew the folks on my little cul-de-sac of ten houses and that was pretty much it. I loved it.

Fast forward to now. As of this writing, our EAL (Email Alert List) has exactly 302 contacts! Like our Secretary says, "That's over 600 eyes and ears!" Gotta love it.

For those of you who may still be on the fence as to the merits of being a member of the **Los Olivos-Riker Neighborhood Association**, I can't help but think of Edmund Burke's famous quote: "*The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.*" We are all blessed with a gift to do good. Some are blessed to lead, others by removing graffiti or picking up trash, and many lend their quiet support by baking, coming to meetings, and even praying for our beloved neighborhood. Whether we answer the call or not, we all have a chance to be stewards of our little corner of the world.

LORNA provides a way for us (neighbors and friends) to **do something** to increase our safety and security and improve our quality of life. We cannot let our apathy be a green light to the bad guys to do their bad deeds. Together, we have the strength to withstand the storm.

Recently, I was privileged to represent LORNA on a local radio show. If there was one principle I wanted to hammer home it was this: Complaining is not productive. We've got to **do something**.

Remember, there are times we just have to do it; no fanfare, no limelight, no great reward...except that of being an excellent steward of our beloved neighborhood.

Become a member of LORNA. There's nothing like a sense of belonging. It's amazing what neighborhood pride can do. Each time I see a **Proud Member** yard sign, as little as it is, I am overwhelmed by the solidarity it represents.

Join us and experience it for yourself: **This is how we do it on the south side!** **Cynthia**



PARADE FLOAT TAKES 2ND PLACE



LORNA's presentation in the Colmo del Rodeo Parade, *Cowboys in the Neighborhood*, was awarded the prize for 2nd Place! The float, a brilliantly dressed vehicle supplied by **McShane's Nursery**, was an inspiration from Trail Bosses **Mary Richardson** and **Elena Lightbown** and their team of wranglers. Many accolades to **Mary** and **Elena** and all their hard-working ranch hands!

LORNA also extends a special **Thank You!** to **Paul** and **Johnna Ferland** and **John Richardson** for the extra effort these dedicated neighbors put forth to construct our award-winning presentation. Well done, buckaroos!

BOARD RETREAT and PIZZA THROWDOWN

Incoming LORNA President **Cynthia Shaffer** led a retreat for the newly-elected Association Board at Casa McShane. Goals were set and a budget was formulated for the coming year. It was clear to all in attendance that building our neighborhood through a strong Watch and plenty of neighborhood activities improves both safety and quality of life.

Immediately following the retreat, Past President **Steve McShane** hosted residents for a wood-fired pizza and swim party. The event was a complete success, drawing nearly 50 people, and featured acoustic guitar music and the traditional pizza contest.



The prize winning wood-fired pizzas, out of more than 30 entries, were the creative cuisine concoctions of **Jeremy Washington** and **Denise Beasley**.

COMMUNITY GRANT

LORNA has been awarded **\$2500** from the *CFMC Neighborhood Grant* program! The list of options for the monies to be spent and the proposal for matching funds will be presented for discussion at the next Association meeting.

Thanks go out once again to the **Grant Team** for its exceptional work to nail down this funding.



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COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Submitted by Kevin Low



Did you know that there are only 23 Salinas firefighters on duty at any one time? In the event of an earthquake or other catastrophe, they will be kept busy and it might not be several days until we receive additional help.

That is where **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** training comes in. Salinas Fire Department is training citizens to be able to step up and fill this void during a disaster. You will learn disaster preparedness, when to shut off utilities, search and rescue, how to fight small fires, and medical triage and treatment.

This training can save your life, your family, and your neighbors. Don't think that someone else will do the job for you. In our fire response area, roughly south of Market between Davis Road and Main Street, we have only **one** person trained!

Sign up for this fun and informative training. People with a medical background and HAM radio operators are needed. Don't think you're not the right age! Half of the last class was composed of retired people.

Classes started August 25th, and run through October 13th, so it's still not too late to sign up. Please contact **Kevin** at **751.9654** or g.appletree@juno.com.

The DOCTORS KIM



LORNA resident **James Kim**, DDS, practices family dentistry at 601 East Romie Lane. He lives in Zone 5 with his wife, **Cindy**, who is also a dentist, and their dog **Tobey**. James has been very involved with doing dental mission work throughout the world, providing free dental care to those who really need it.

The doctors are very excited to be back and part of our community. Call **Dr. Kim** at **424.4230** and visit the website at www.salinassmile.com.

BEST NURSERY AWARD



McShane's Nursery and Landscape Supply was voted **Best Nursery** in the *Monterey County Weekly* 21st annual readers' poll.

Congratulations to our Past President on another of his many accomplishments! Visit **McShane's** at 115 Monterey Salinas Highway, and visit the website at www.mcshanesnursery.com.



- To **Melissa Mears** and **Tri-County Business Systems** for their generosity and professional printing of the newsletter. The editors sincerely appreciate Melissa's efforts. Visit her business at 855 South Main and check out the website at www.tcbs-usa.com.
- To **Renae Gerhardstein** for her continued, unwavering support and the use of **Villa Serra** as LORNA's unofficial headquarters.



CaringBridge provides free, personal, and private websites that connect people experiencing significant health challenges to family and friends, making each health journey easier. A CaringBridge website helps keep loved ones informed during a significant health challenge.

Tom McShane, father of our Past President, and **Bill Slezak**, LORNA's original treasurer, have been battling life-threatening illnesses for many months. Both have shown remarkable courage and are doing better each day.

Communicate with **Tom** and **Bill** and follow their progress on www.caringbridge.org.

PET PEEVE



Some residents recently reported that their small dogs have been attacked by larger animals during walkies time. The bigger beasts were evidently not on leashes, or had somehow slipped out of them.

The *Salinas Municipal Code* prohibits dogs running loose. Residents ask pet owners to obey the law, and not be the perpetrators of dangerous canine encounters.

LORNA MEETINGS

Association meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of each month at **Villa Serra**, which means the next meeting is September 12th. Business begins at 7:30 pm. All are welcome, so please come and join your neighbors!

LORNA on the WEB

Visit the website at www.lorneighborhood.com and...





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The Watch — Eyes and Ears of the Neighborhood



CAR TAGGING

Submitted by Don Jones

I recently received a forwarded email that originated from a resident of the Maple Park neighborhood. The subject matter, however, is a concern for all of us. The message included a photo of a car that was tagged with graffiti. This incident represents a serious escalation of the tagging problem in the city of Salinas.

Graffiti tags on cars can be difficult to remove without damaging the paint, especially if the car doesn't have a good wax coating. It's important to remove graffiti quickly before it becomes baked-on by the sun. After a tag bakes on, it becomes harder to remove. Goof Off may remove the tag, but try it on a small area first to make sure it doesn't damage the paint. It might be wise to call a paint store for advice before trying to remove a tag from your car.

The email represented another red flag for LORNA residents to be vigilant about suspicious people in our neighborhoods. Tagging may be done in early morning hours or late in the evening when it's harder for us to observe the taggers. Be wary of young kids with backpacks riding on skateboards.

This is just another example of the benefit of video cameras in the neighborhood.

LORNA ALERTS

Submitted by Don Jones

As many of you on the LORNA email alert list may have noticed, the number of email alerts has significantly declined over the last several months. After our LORNA group got rolling around this time last year, the number of LORNA alerts was alarming. I believe that due to the dedication of our LORNA members, the word has gotten out that we are watching the neighborhood, to counter the criminals who are watching us.

That said, we've had some suspicious truck sightings and activity in the neighborhoods, so please remain vigilant in watching out for our fellow neighbors and for suspicious activity. We had one occurrence of loud music that the SPD responded to and resolved within about ten minutes. We may not get that quick response every time due to short staffing in the PD. However, we have gone to great lengths to develop a cordial relationship with the SPD, and I think it's paying off.

REFLECTIVE K-9 VESTS



The Watch is now taking orders for LORNA reflective **K-9 Vests** that match our own vests. They come in various sizes, depending upon the dog measurements, and are beautifully embroidered with our LORNA logo.

Cost is \$30 for LORNA members, or \$40 for non-LORNA members, which also buys you a LORNA membership. We are accumulating orders until we reach a price-break point, and we've also opened it up to the Monterey Park Association. If we order 20 vests by the September 12th deadline, you may qualify for a \$3 discount.

Keep your dog and the neighborhood safe at the same time! Please contact **Don Jones** at **758.5867** or bearpaw05@sbcglobal.net to order your K-9 vest.

TAGGING in the HOOD

There has been a disquieting flurry of tagging activity here on the south side. Many of the tags we have seen before, but there are always new perpetrators striving to make their marks. Through our e-alerts and LORNA meetings, we have become familiar with graffiti and often recognize the tagging.

Rapid reporting and removal is essential to deterring these vandals. If you see graffiti, call **Republic Services** on their hotline at **751.5493** for removal. It is especially helpful to have pictures of the tagging.

If you see tagging in process, call **911**. If you observe suspicious activity, call the Salinas PD non-emergency number at **758.7321**. You don't have to give your name, and remember, first priority is to stay safe.

LORNA residents have increasingly been taking prompt action to report and remove tagging in and around our neighborhood. One of our neighbors recently removed eight tags along two streets within 48 hours of the first report.

By working together with city services and maintaining constant surveillance, we can keep our neighborhood free of this disgraceful graffiti, and take pride in ownership that fuels our motivation to increase safety and security and improve our quality of life.





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VIGILANCE

Submitted by Cheri Shiffman

LORNA email alerts prompt me to continue to be ever so vigilant around my home and neighborhood. An attempted break-in on a recent Monday morning with the homeowners asleep in their home was very alarming. Thankfully, the residents were unharmed.

By attending our monthly LORNA meetings, I've learned of our neighbors' plights. A neighbor who attended a recent meeting shared with me that the family had experienced their home being egged and one of their new windows shot with a BB gun. I now often drive past this home to help with the **Eyes and Ears**.

One Saturday when I was out working in my front yard, I was able to visit with several neighbors on my street. One told me that his home has been egged in the past, and he has experienced other incidents. He also shared his concern about illegal fireworks that I was able to bring up at the next LORNA meeting.

I have also noticed a long-time pattern of casings, reports of break-ins, and other unwanted activities that occur on Mondays, the days that we all have our trash, yard waste, and recycle bins out on the streets for Republic/BFI to pick up. It is good to be even more vigilant on those days.

It's important to talk with our neighbors and listen to their concerns, to get information that may not be shared at our monthly meetings or social gatherings. We need to be more attentive to LORNA residents who are quieter than others.

The e-alerts and *From the Fields* newsletter are great. There are lots of people who don't use the computer and rely on neighbors and the newsletter to find out what's going on in our neighborhood.

A majority of us feel very safe and blessed to be living here. Our neighbors are wonderful, we all watch out for each other, and so much kindness and care is expressed in so many ways. Let's all continue to be vigilant and keep our homes secure from potential troublemakers.

NEW AREA COMMANDER



LORNA welcomes our new area commander, **Vince Miaorana**, to the south side, replacing **Stan Cooper**.

We look forward to cultivating our relationship with Commander Miaorana to make our community even stronger and more secure. Welcome Commander!

READING the METERS

Submitted by Cheri Shiffman

On the days that **PG&E** is scheduled to read the meters, some of our neighbors have to leave their side gates unlocked. To tell if the meter reader has been to your home, place a piece of painter's tape on the meter. When the meter reader comes, he/she will remove it, you will know that PG&E has come by, and you can then lock the gate.

You can go to www.pge.com and print out the current year's meter reading schedule. Here are the dates that PG&E meter readers will come into our neighborhood, through November:

August 25 th	October 25 th
September 26 th	November 23 rd

Normally, PG&E will come on the scheduled days, but there have been times when the meter reader has come the day after the scheduled day. The painter's tape is also very helpful when this occurs.

If you are not ready for the SmartMeter[®], PG&E will honor your requests. Call PG&E at **1.877.743.7378** to be added to the SmartMeter[®] delayed installation list and place a note on your meter that reads, "Please, no SmartMeters".

STOLEN POTS

A flower pot thief has been spotted in Maple Park. Fortunately, an alert resident captured images on a surveillance camera of a man stealing big ceramic pots from the front yard. The video was provided to Salinas PD and a police report was filed. A second resident in that area also reported stolen pots. **Eyes and Ears!**

PARKING CONCERNS

A trusty neighbor has reported that, in recent months, people are parking their cars in the same locations, sometimes overnight or for the weekend, and are later dropped off to retrieve their vehicles.

Often, one or more young women are being dropped off by one or more men of a similar age. They appear to be clean and well-dressed, and never seem to enter a nearby house or condo. On occasion, they have also been seen with small pieces of luggage.

Perception is not always reality. However, changes in the activities in the neighborhood bring a heightened concern and awareness, and remind us that we are the **Eyes and Ears** for the police. It's up to all of us to continue to take notice, express our concerns, and share the benefits of a safe neighborhood.