



FROM THE FIELDS

A Newsletter of the Los Olivos-Riker Neighborhood Association

Fourth Quarter 2012



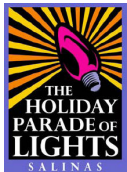
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Announcements and Reportage from the South Side



HOLIDAY PARADE OF LIGHTS



With great excitement, LORNA once again entered a float in the Oldtown Salinas **Holiday Parade of Lights**. On Sunday, November 25th, South Main was illuminated with holiday spirit. Once again, the truck for this year's entry was donated by **McShane's Nursery and Landscape Supply**, and many LORNA neighbors volunteered to help decorate and/or ride the float.

Special thanks to Nicole Capps and Steve McShane for their exceptional leadership, and to Angela Savage and Ronnie Esparza for their excellent support. Ronnie generously provided food to the float builders.

Visit LORNA on Facebook for pictures and reviews: www.facebook.com/events/385243258219796.

HOLIDAY HOME LIGHTING COMPETITION



The City of Salinas, Salinas Neighborhood Council, and PG&E have announced another city-wide **Holiday Home Lighting Competition**, scheduled for Sunday, December 9th, at 4:45 pm.

Residents all over the city are invited to submit their holiday home décor for prizes and recognition. First prize will be \$100 cash, along with a placard. There also will be a \$75 prize for second place and a \$50 prize for third place. In addition, a \$100 special prize will be awarded to a home showing special attention to energy efficient lighting and décor.

Residents interested in entering their home to be considered can do so by contacting Steve McShane at steve@mcshanesnursery.com or **970.4141**. Members of the community are invited to help in the judging.

The South Salinas bus will be in the Nob Hill Parking Lot at 4:45 pm sharp. Folks wishing to join the South Salinas bus must RSVP to Steve. Here's to an awesome competition!

Baking Brigade

New Police Chief? Retiring Mayor? Call on the LORNA **Baking Brigade** to create and donate incredible edibles for any occasion. The Brigade has emerged as one of the most essential ingredients in our association's recipe of success. This group of talented bakers has provided cookies and cakes and other culinary delights to police and city officials, and LORNA neighbors in need of comfort. Special thanks to these generous kitchen divas for all their confectionary creations on behalf of LORNA.



Potato Chip Cookies

Contributed by Barb Pybas

Cream together 2 cubes butter, ½ cup sugar, and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Add 2 cups flour, ½ cup chopped walnuts, and 1 cup crushed potato chips.

Put the entire bag of chips in a large Ziplok bag, leave an inch or so opened, and keep running the rolling pin over and over the bag. Shake the chips around and keep repeating. This should give you about 3 cups of crushed chips, enough for 3 batches of cookies. Keep the unused crushed chips in the freezer.

Form into small balls, then press with the flat bottom of a glass that has been dipped in sugar. Bake at 350 degrees for 14-15 minutes.

COMMUNITY MEETING

Salinas City Councilman Steve McShane will host a Community Meeting for the City of Salinas on Wednesday, January 30th, at Villa Serra, 1320 Padre Drive. The meeting will be from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, and will serve as an opportunity for local residents to meet and engage some of the City's Senior Staff as part of a *State of the City* address. Coffee will be served. RSVP's are welcome to Steve McShane at steve@mcshanesnursery.com or **970.4141**.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Submitted by Mary Richardson

The mission of our Los Olivos-Riker Neighborhood Association is to enhance the security and quality of life for all in our neighborhood.



Certainly that includes the safety of our streets and sidewalks. I know I am not the only neighbor to trip on our broken sidewalks recently. There are sidewalks in our neighborhood that are truly dangerous, but there may be a solution.

The City of Salinas has a *50/50 Sidewalk Repair Program* in which the homeowner and city splits the cost for curb, gutter, and/or sidewalk repair. There are limited funds available this year and unused funds will be distributed after March 30, 2013.

I believe LORNA has the pride, enthusiasm, determination, and manpower to tackle a task such as this. *What do you think?*

If you are interested in LORNA helping with the repair of the worst of the worst, contact Mary Richardson at **757.3160** or email maryjohnr@sbcglobal.net.

TRI-COUNTY BUSINESS SYSTEMS



Tri-County Business Systems, located at 855 South Main, offers a full range of printers and copiers to meet the needs of business and for home use. They also carry fax machines, multi-function printers, monitors, projectors, interactive whiteboards, and duplicators.

Their skilled and knowledgeable team of certified technicians provides sales, installation, and service for Sharp copiers, multi-function printers, and FAX machines. Visit the website at www.tcbs-usa.com.

CLEAN-UP DAY

The annual Los Olivos-Riker and South Salinas Clean-Up Day was a tremendous success. Huge kudos are in store for Christie Carlson of LORNA Zone 2 as her home was host to our annual neighborhood clean-up. This year's event was in collaboration with Salinas Councilman Steve McShane and Republic Services. More than 100 people volunteered and participated in a bulk and e-waste collection event.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to the eight volunteers that came from Sun Street Centers. Mayor Dennis Donohue and Assemblyman Luis Alejo attended the kick-off, and Mark Carbonaro of KION AM 1460 broadcasted from our headquarters at Christie's home. We appreciate the pride in our neighborhood and look forward to next year's clean-up.

DRYGREEN

Tom Bernatos is the owner of **DRYGREEN Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning**. *If it's not GREEN then it ain't CLEAN!*

CALIFORNIA WELCOME CENTER



When visitors come to town, suggest a stop at the **California Welcome Center** for local attractions and events, places to go, and things to see and do.

The Center is located at 1215 North Davis and is open seven days a week. Check out the website at www.visitcwc.com.

RONNIE ESPARZA

Local **Comcast** representative Ronnie Esparza is known as the *No-Worries Cable Guy*. He is an awesome LORNA supporter and has sponsored dinner for the hungry volunteers working on the Holiday Parade of Lights float. Ronnie is willing to offer a LORNA special for cable, Internet, and phone for 12 months. E-mail Ronnie at ronsparza@gmail.com or call him at **320.9328**.

NO SOLICITING

Become a member of LORNA and receive this cool **NO SOLICITING** sticker.



Renew your LORNA membership and benefit from what LORNA has to offer. You can find the form at www.lorneighborhood.com/membership.

You can also mail your donation of any amount to:

**LORNA Membership, c/o Villa Serra
1320 Padre Drive, Salinas CA 93901.**

Please include your e-mail address so we can add you to our *E-Mail Alert List*.

Find LORNA on **facebook**



Eyes and Ears of the Los Olivos–Riker Neighborhood

CHIEF MCMILLIN



LORNA congratulates Kelly McMillin for his appointment as Chief of Salinas PD. We wish all success to the Chief as he takes on a tough, thankless job. LORNA pledges its support and willingness to assist Chief McMillin and Salinas PD in any way.

LETTER to the EDITOR ***Contributed by Cynthia Shaffer***

There are a million things I could be doing right now, but writing this letter is the one thing I am compelled to do this very minute. In June, my classmates and I graduated from Salinas Police Department's **Community Academy**. We spent 12 consecutive Wednesdays (6 pm – 9pm, and sometimes even later) with Salinas' finest, and it's my realization there's nothing I can ever do to adequately express my gratitude to and admiration for the men and women who make Salinas PD one of the nation's most excellent police forces. I'm not exaggerating. I'm not embellishing. I'm not kidding. I'm simply stating God's honest truth.

Making you believe me is not my mission. My mission is to challenge you -- whatever your station in life -- so you may make your own informed decision which spurs you on to be the kind of neighbor you'd want if you lived next door to yourself.

Enroll in the next Community Academy, so you may receive a sliver of appreciation for what our officers contend with to protect and serve this beloved city called Salinas. I challenge you to *think for yourself* (challenge those stereotypes and preconceived notions) and then be the same after taking this course. You can't be the same.

Notice I wrote, "appreciation" and not "understanding". Seriously, who fully understands the heart and mind of another? Understanding each other is overrated and not necessary for us to look out for each other and give a damn about our beloved city.

Frankly, it's not about us walking a mile in each other's shoes. It's about us walking our best *in our own shoes*.

I can't walk in SPD's boots. What I can do is shout from the mountain tops what I've learned and share SPD's most important need: *for us to be good witnesses*.

Call in suspicious behavior (**758.7321**, to help prevent crime) and cooperate when we've seen a crime in progress. I wish the police could solve crimes with a magic wand, but wishing it won't make it so. What makes it so is us telling the police what we saw. 'Cause whether we're from the South side or East side, it's not about "understanding", it's about appreciating our common desire to be safe and secure and what we do to make that happen while we all live and dream in the best city this side of the Salinas River.

While we enjoy time with our friends, go to work, and raise our families, (all 155,000+ of us) there are some 200 folks with SPD who do the same except their work involves placing themselves in harm's way to fight the good fight. I cannot begin to express how proud I am of and what respect I have for Salinas' finest. My confidence in Salinas PD is unwavering and justified. I challenge you to prove me wrong.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Submitted by Nicole Capps



On August 7th, LORNA shared a booth with Eagle-Bison Neighborhood Association and the Salinas Neighborhood Council at the **National Night Out** event in Salinas. National Night Out is held in over 15,000 communities across the country in an effort to strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and community members. Law enforcement units and non-profit organizations all had booths at the event, and Salinas PD and the Salinas Fire Department had several of their vehicles present.

An estimated 1,500 people attended the event. LORNA volunteers educated attendees on the benefit of a neighborhood watch and provided information on how one could start a neighborhood watch program in their area. Thank you to Kevin Low, Cynthia Shaffer, and Bill and Pat Slezak for their assistance with this event, and a special thank you to the Baking Brigade. As you can imagine the baked goods were a huge draw for the booth!