

Creston Improvement Association

November 20, 2013



Annual Meeting Report

Our Annual Meeting was held on June 11, 2013. Association President Lynn North introduced the newly-elected Association Board and thanked Nick & Janet Vrionis for hosting the meeting and allowing everyone present to tour their newly-built house.

Principal discussion items included the Annual Neighborhood Party scheduled for August 17th, the need to implement our Neighborhood Watch program, and creative ideas for encouraging residents to become actively involved with our Association: paying annual dues, attending the Party, running for Board positions, decorating for the holiday season, etc. The dead trees at the corner of Groveland and Creston, previously mentioned by residents with concern, have been removed by the City of Los Altos.

Treasurer's Report indicates that as of June 11, only 57% households have paid current dues. Total 2013 assets to date=\$14,371.54; Total 2013 expenditures to date=\$211.79

Board Officers for 2013-2014

Lynn North, President

Jack Truher, V.-Pres

Sneha Thakar, Secretary

Chris Kirkpatrick, Treasurer

Pat Musachia, Communications

Kitty Wilson, Newsletter

Bobbi Crawford, Distribution

Neighborhood Watch Program:

a goal for 2014

Several years ago, we made the first attempt to establish a Neighborhood Watch program in Creston, dividing the entire neighborhood into 16 "sections" of 8-11 homes each, and asking for a Section Captain volunteer from each section. The Sheriff's Department has encouraged the establishing of these programs. Fortunately, in Creston, we already have an effective neighborhood Association publishing this periodic Newsletter and offering the Email Bulletin system that alerts us all to such things as missing pets, suspicious door-to-door solicitors, and the Sheriff's local crime reports. Some of us are also in the habit of letting nearby neighbors know if we'll be away on vacation so they'll keep an extra eye on our homes while we're away. But we'd like to get a more complete, coordinated, Neighborhood Watch program in place this next year, and our Association V.P. Jack Truher has volunteered to coordinate this effort.

Neighborhood Watch reminds us all to be extra sets of eyes maintaining safety and security in Creston. It does not take the place of your directly contacting police or fire departments in an emergency. We do not expect or want Section Captains, themselves, to confront or challenge any intruders, or handle neighbors' property emergencies but simply to assist with contacting the Sheriff or property owner, especially in absence of the resident,

Turn to Page 4 for More on
Neighborhood Watch and
Home Security Issues

Getting To Know Your Neighbors

We would like to hear how you're enjoying this new feature of our Newsletter. Who can we highlight in future Newsletters? You? A neighbor-friend you would like the rest of us to know better? We always run the write-ups past those featured for review, prior to publication.



Holiday Decorations:

Making The Season Bright!

Because Creston is, as we mentioned above, such a dark neighborhood in this season, we are really looking forward to the bright Holiday lights and decorations many of our neighbors will soon be putting up. We will once again decorate the Creston entrance with tasteful ornaments.

Annual Neighborhood Party Report

91 neighbors attended the festive Annual Party on August 17th including several new families as well as some of our Old Timers. Generous neighbor Mike Zucato, owner of Zuc's Frontyard BBQ (www.zucsbbq.com), contributed his equipment and labor for the mouthwatering BBQ entrees this year: ribs and chicken. We also thank Lisa McClelland again for donating the colorful balloons as she has done for many years. Our traditional International Buffet of neighbors' homemade appetizers, side dishes and desserts was once again outstanding. Thank You to everyone who helped set up and clean up!

Home & Garden Service Recommendations

On our Creston Association website (www.creston-ca.org) we maintain a list of various local service providers recommended by our neighbors. If you have any updates for this list—either someone you wish to recommend or someone currently on the list who you've learned is no longer available—please let Pat Musachia know (g.musachia@sbcglobal.net).

Pat has a new one to recommend, herself. As many of you know, Pat's husband has been ill and she needed to hire care for him recently. She was very pleased with the provider: Homecare California, based in Los Altos. Their website is www.HomecareCal.com and their phone number is 650-324-2600.

Pedestrians & Cyclists:

Make Sure You're Visible!

One of our neighbors nearly hit some walkers she didn't see until the last moment, because they were wearing completely dark clothing—after dark! Remember, it will soon be dark both in the early morning and the early evening. This is a dark neighborhood with no sidewalks, and we urge all you who walk, jog or cycle in Creston to be sure to wear light-colored and/or reflective clothing and do whatever you can to be sure you're visible!

Obituary

One of our long time neighbors on Creston Drive died shortly after we published our last Newsletter, Harold Zeitman, an avid gardener and lover of trains, passed away peacefully in June. He and his wife, Jean, and their four children lived on Creston Drive for fifty years. Jean is now living in Sunnyvale at Sunrise Senior Living. Their eldest daughter, Sandi, lived with them for the last 10 years. She is now also living in Sunnyvale. Their youngest son owns the hardware store that Harold originally owned. The family extends their gratitude to the wonderful neighbors who helped them out for so many years.

MEET YOUR CRESTON NEIGHBORS

DAWN & MARTY CHUCK

Dawn and Marty Chuck have lived on Cloverly Court since 1992. Dawn grew up in Sunnyvale. Her parents still live in the same house. She attended West Valley Elementary, Cupertino Jr. High and Homestead High School, and then attended Foothill College where she met Marty, 35 years ago. They both transferred to Chico State, where Dawn graduated with a B.S. in Business Administration & Finance. She worked in the semiconductor industry for 15 years before retiring to stay home full time to raise their daughters. Dawn became very active with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team In Training program in 1998 when she trained for her first marathon while raising money for the LLS. She stayed involved with the program but decided to cycle instead of running. She has done many century rides, a double-century and has ridden across Iowa 3 years in a row. Dawn enjoys running/walking their friendly Doberman pinchers, hiking, cycling and doing Pilates. She is also an avid quilter and cross-stitcher, as well as a regular blood donor.

Marty grew up in Palo Alto, graduating from Gunn High School. His parents are also still in the same house. After graduation from Chico State with a B.S. in Computer Science (Math minor), he spent 23 years in the I.T. field at HP, Agilent and Electronic Arts. He now has his own successful IT consulting business: The CXOs. Marty spends his free time golfing, cycling with Dawn, working out and watching hockey: loves his Sharks and is a season ticket holder!

The Chucks have two daughters, Lauren (26) and Kristen (22). Lauren is a registered nurse at Stanford Hospital and lives just a mile from here. Being so close, she and Dawn can often exercise, shop and lunch together. Kristen is in her final year at the University of Denver where she is double-majoring in Criminology and Russian, with a minor in Business. She will most likely start a career in some 3-letter-acronym government agency.

JANE WEAKLEY

Jane, a longtime Creston resident and past Creston Improvement Association president, grew up in Indiana. She graduated from Ball State University and taught school in Florida and Southern California. Jane and her late husband, Tom (also a past Creston Association president) were married in the 1950s and made their home in various parts of the U.S. and in Europe. Eventually Tom's career in the aerospace industry brought them here, in 1970.

Jane has always been interested in issues that affect Creston. She always attends the annual Association Meetings and has offered many excellent operational suggestions over the years.

Jane's daughter, Alissa, and son, Craig, both live with their families in South Carolina. Jane enjoys visits from her children and grandchildren and travels to visit them as well. Besides her longtime interest in politics, Jane enjoys gardening and walking her daily loop around the neighborhood



Neighborhood Watch & Home Security

Jack Truher (Jack.truher@creston-ca.org) has readied Creston roster data for assisting our Neighborhood Watch program. Jack will be in contact with volunteer Creston Section Captains and households over the coming months. Four Sections need Captains. Jack can provide information on web-based communication resources to anyone with questions. Retired now, Jack's experience includes relevant experience in the U.S. Army and in Emergency Planning while at Stanford's SLAC laboratory.

In organizing our Neighborhood Watch program, we are short of four Section Captains. We ask each family in a particular section to cooperate by providing your Section Captain with some basic information. This isn't meant as an invasion of your privacy, but simply to allow your Section Captain to be able, if necessary, to contact her/his nearby residences—and allow you to contact your Section Captain easily.

For your Neighborhood Watch Section Captain to know:

- 1- your contact information, if an emergency arises on your property, during vacations during a particular period.
- 2 - aid needed, while you're at work, for persons left inside the home routinely, e.g elderly or disabled persons, or pets.
- 3 - when authorized workers will be active on your property in your absence, during home or landscaping work.
- 4- unusual circumstances or events around any neighbor's property that concerns you from a security standpoint.
- 5 - an alternative contact person, for during the day if some urgent situation arises at your home (obvious leaking water, fire, etc.), and you can not be reached.

Traditional Creston website is at <http://www.creston-ca.org>

New web-based communications tools have become available to Creston residents. We have our own moderated **creston-ca Google Group** site. For residents' announcements, discussions, Q&A, etc. Only Creston folks can reach this group location.

<https://groups.google.com/forum#!forum/creston-ca>

Nextdoor.com is a social media members' site operated by a web corporation which is in startup mode. Their area now overlays our Creston Los Altos boundaries. For neighbor news, to buy/sell your extra stuff, etc. We've heard both enthusiasm and concerns about this site, which is something like Facebook but with a very local focus.

<http://crestonlosaltos.nextdoor.com> -or- <https://crestonlosaltos.nextdoor.com/login/>

END