



Homeowners of Crestmont Association

November 2011 Newsletter

Return of the Newsletter

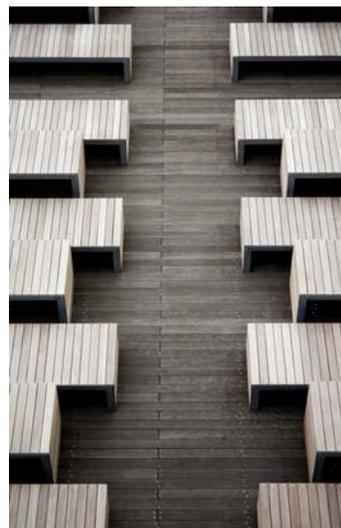
This edition of the Homeowners of Crestmont Newsletter marks both the return of the newsletter from a hiatus and the assumption of publishing responsibility by a new editor—Mike Kisel (me). Art Twain did a fine job of publishing the newsletter for many years, and I have no illusion that I'll be able to step in and immediately achieve the same high standard of quality as Art. So, I ask you as readers to cut me a little slack in the beginning.

For now, we (I'm assuming for the moment that I'll be elected as an at-large member) are planning to publish the newsletter quarterly. We'll be reviewing past newsletters to help structure content going forward, as well as reporting on items of current interest (such as plans for the new Safeway in this issue). The process will take some time, so we ask that you both bear with us as we reinvent the publication; we welcome your feedback and input.

As many of you know, crime has been a problem in Crestmont for a while now. Two of our newer members were victims of a robbery not long after moving

here, and decided—to their credit—to do more than simply report the crime to the police and file an insurance claim. Ken Ellis reports in this issue about the crime, and describes what he and his wife Deborah are doing about it.

We're continuing at least one column from past newsletters: *Meet Your Board Members*. We'll introduce you to Shirley Corrothers in this edition.



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November Annual Meeting

The Homeowners of Crestmont holds its annual meeting from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m. November 9 at the Richard Trudeau Training Center, located at 11500 Skyline Boulevard (directly across Skyline Boulevard from the top of Crestmont Drive). **Please remember that last May we began scheduling member meetings to begin at 7:00, not 7:30.** Items currently on the agenda are 1) Board of Directors nominations and elections, and 2) a presentation of plans for a new Safeway store at Lincoln Square by Todd Paradis from Safeway's Real Estate department, with ample time for questions and answers. We will publish a final agenda as soon as possible.

Refreshments will be served



HCA Board Openings—Volunteers Needed (This means YOU!)

The Homeowners of Crestmont Association (HCA) By-Laws specify that the board shall consist of 19 members, 12 of whom are the district directors, and 7 of whom are at-large members. We currently have only 2 at-large members, plus 2 volunteers (Mike Kisel and Ben Plumley) who have not yet been elected by the membership. That means we need at least 3 more nominees/volunteers to fill the current at-large board openings. Elections are held annually at the November general meeting, scheduled for November 9. The By-Laws, which are included in the CC&Rs (Covenants, Conditions, & Restrictions) describe the duties of board members.



In addition to the at-large openings, we need district directors for district 3 (sections of Chadbourne Way and Kimberlin Heights), district 10 (Samaria Lane and a portion of Crestmont Drive), and district 12 (1-93 Van Cleave Way); the By-Laws specify that someone who lives in those districts should fill the positions.

Having a fully staffed board means the work of any one member will be reduced—considerably, given the number of open positions—so please consider whether you’re willing to support your neighbors by volunteering. If you’re interested, or have questions you’d like answered before you choose to volunteer, please feel free to contact your district director or one of the officers. Unless you know your director’s e-mail habits, I recommend that you call them; there’s an updated contact list in this newsletter, as well as on the HCA website.

New Safeway for Lincoln Square?

As some Crestmont residents are most likely aware, Safeway is planning a major upgrade to its store at Lincoln Square. Todd Paradis from Safeway’s Real Estate department will be attending the November general meeting to discuss the project and answer Crestmont residents’ questions. In the meantime, he provided some information about the project for our newsletter.

The Numbers

The current store is 18,505 square feet; the proposed store will cover 45,222 square feet—about 2-1/2 times larger. According to Mr. Paradis, there are currently 97 parking stalls, which they will increase to 174. Most parking spaces will be on the upper (roof) level, accessible via a new driveway between the store and First Covenant Church. About 60 employees work at the current store; that number will nearly double to 114.

The Good Stuff

Paradis stated that Safeway would improve the service seafood & meat counter, expand the bakery to offer full service from scratch, expand the deli and organic produce sections, and build a fully enclosed loading dock (no more navigating around delivery trucks!).

The new store will also feature a Starbucks, a pharmacy, outdoor seating with tables and umbrellas, short and long term bike parking, and a combined signalized driveway with the church (finally, a traffic light!).

What’s Next?

Mr. Paradis indicated that construction would take about 12 months; Safeway cannot yet provide a start date, since that depends on both city processing time and finalizing an agreement with the church to reconfigure its entrance.

The project website is www.safewayonredwood.com; from there, you can download a copy of the plans in pdf format, as well as view a 3-D video of the new store’s exteriors.



Security in Numbers

Ken Ellis

I have enjoyed living in five different neighborhoods up and down the Highway 13 corridor since I came to Oakland in 1968. Before moving to Crestmont this past January, I had experienced only one minor burglary in 43 years of living in the Oakland hills. Unfortunately, my wife and I were the victims of a significant burglary three months after we moved into our home on Kimberlin Heights. Despite the fact that we had an alarm, signs in the front to indicate such, and were gone only 24 hours, someone kicked in our front door and made off with several valuable items, some of which were precious and irreplaceable.

Our first reactions were fear, anger and disbelief. *How could anyone bash in our door, haul a big screen TV and other stuff up the stairs, and get away without anyone noticing?* When an Oakland Police Department (OPD) officer arrived to take a report, he said he hadn't been in the area for many years. He also told us that another Kimberlin Heights neighbor reported a similar incident the previous week. Apparently, there was a rash of front door break-ins in the hills this spring. Knowing we weren't alone didn't give my wife and me any comfort; but, rather than retreat from the problem, we decided to investigate the situation and do something about it.

We attended Crestmont Homeowners' meetings and began talking to our new neighbors. We found that several of them had been victimized by car thefts and vandalism in the past several years. We also realized that many neighbors were unaware of the crimes taking place just down the street.

Last month, I spoke with an officer who was responding

to a false alarm at a neighbor's house. I asked about the average response time to an alarm in our neighborhood. "It depends on what's going on in the city," he said. "It could be five minutes...or thirty. There are some burglars who are purposely setting off alarms just to see how long it takes us to respond."

We contacted OPD and held a Neighborhood Watch meeting at our home, and more than a dozen neighbors attended. As a result, Kimberlin Heights established the second Neighborhood Watch group in Crestmont. We plan to set up an email tree to help our group actively communicate and brainstorm about safety issues.

The bad guys are well aware of the fact that city services are stretched thin; and the recent departure of Chief Batts is, in my opinion, another major setback. It seems some city leaders don't value the aggressive stance the Chief took toward policing our community. The fact is that we are increasingly on our own when it comes to securing our neighborhood. It's critical, now more than ever, to be watchful neighbors. Fortunately, there has always been strength and security in numbers. Hopefully, we will face the challenges ahead together.



Helpful Contact Information

City of Oakland Neighborhood Services web page: <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/CityAdministration/d/NSD/index.htm>

Neighborhood Watch: Brenda Ivey, 510-238-3091, bivey@oaklandnet.com

OPD Neighborhood Services Coordinator: Renee Sykes, 510-238-7929

OPD Non-emergency line: 510-777-3333

CORE Training Update

We held a CORE I training class on September 12 at Elaina Munzar's home which was both well-attended and well-provisioned, with plenty of munchies for all. Please consider getting the training yourself; sign-up sheets will be available at the general meeting in November.

Meet Your Board Members

Shirley Corrothers—President

Shirley and her husband Joe rented their home in Walnut Creek in 1997 and moved to Crestmont to care for her grandparents, who'd bought a lot in Crestmont and built their home—now Shirley and Joe's—in 1957. They own a business (a Curves health club), which Shirley manages; Joe works as a Senior Sales Representative.

They have six (“...yes, I said six”, Shirley emphasizes) children ranging in age from 36 to 48, and 3 grandchildren, ages 2 to 24. Since all of their children live in different parts of the country, the Corrothers have adopted two little white dogs (Belle and Johssie) to challenge them. Between their respective jobs and pets, and the homeowners' association board, Shirley and Joe somehow manage to stay busy.

When asked why she joined the HCA board of directors, Shirley replied that after being a Crestmont resident for six years and still not knowing any of her neighbors,

she decided that by getting involved with the board she could both get to know the neighbors and contribute to the improvement of the Crestmont community.

What does Shirley like most about living in Crestmont? “The people, the hills and the views—not to mention the central location, with its easy access to parks, stores and public transportation.”

When asked to recall her favorite Crestmont memory, Shirley described a time when she was twelve and came here to visit her grandparents; her aunt—who is Shirley's age—was visiting at the same time. The first night of their stay (when they were supposed to be in bed), they opened the window to talk with the good-looking boy next door. Whether it was the boy, her family's company, or the beauty of Crestmont, “...I remember thinking how lucky I was to be here and wondered if someday I would have a home and life as

beautiful as that of my grandparents...” Although she never thought she would ever be so lucky, “...here we are, I own the home I grew up in, and have a wonderful life with my husband. I live among my memories, and at every corner, I find a new one. How lucky can a girl be?”

What are Shirley's hopes for our neighborhood? “The very best thing that can happen for our community is if we truly become a community of friends and neighbors. Get out on our front porches and talk to each other. As a board, we are all striving to maintain and improve our community. I hope our neighbors see the benefit of the Homeowners Association and want to get involved. Nothing makes it healthier than new blood, fresh ideas, and new experiences.”

Homeowners of Crestmont Association

P.O. Box 13315 PMB-111
Oakland, California 94610-0315
www.crestmont94619.org

The Homeowners of Crestmont Association (HCA) was formed in 1956 and incorporated on August 8, 1965 as a non-profit corporation. The association was created to manage the business affairs of the Crestmont Community and ensure that the property values and quality of life for all Crestmont homeowners would be protected.

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Homeowners of Crestmont Association.



Happy Halloween!