

Upper East News

*Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Upper East Association
September 2009*



City Council Candidates Forum

Monday, October 5, 2009

6 - 9 pm

**Friars Lounge at the Old Mission Retreat Center;
enter from 2300 Garden Street (at Pueblo) *only*;
follow signs to private parking behind Retreat Center**

Because the General Plan will be adopted with a new City Council, no election is more important for our neighborhood than this one coming up. Learn who will speak best to protect our concerns.

A Message from the Upper East Association Board President...

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and choose to become a member of the Upper East Association. ***What is the Upper East Association?*** (UEA) It is a mutual benefit non-profit corporation organized for the preservation, protection and safety of the people who live in the area.

Community organizations such as the UEA are a very effective vehicle for communicating and influencing city government leaders and agencies. Essentially, the larger our membership is, the greater impact the Association can have to preserve our community.

As important as national elections can be, local issues can have a greater impact on the quality of our life and the value of our properties. Please take the time to fill in the enclosed questionnaire, to let us know the issues that are important to you and send it in with your membership application.

I hope to see many of you at the City Council Forum on October 5th! (See invite above)

Sincerely,

Bob Kennedy

Meet the 2008-2009 UEA Board Officers

Bob Kennedy - President. Bob is a retired marketing and management consultant who has lived in Santa Barbara 30 years, including 21 years in the Upper East.

Fred Sweeney - Vice President. Fred is an architect and senior partner in the firm of Phillips, Metsch, Sweeney & Moore. He has lived in Santa Barbara 31 years, including 25 years in the Upper East.

Joan Livingston - Treasurer. Joan is a retired attorney who serves on the Santa Barbara Community College District Board of Trustees, an elected position she has held for over 16 years. She is a 30-year resident of Santa Barbara who has been active in local politics for many years.

Beth Perry - Secretary. Beth has been involved in many local philanthropic organizations since she moved to Santa Barbara with her family ten years ago, including four years in the Upper East.

Vacant position - Membership. A membership coordinator responsible for keeping UEA members' contact information current is needed. If interested, please email Joan Livingston @ jmlsba@yahoo.com

REASONS TO BELONG TO THE UPPER EAST ASSOCIATION:

- Protect the quality and safety of our neighborhood.
- Share and address issues of concern to you.
- Keep informed of impending land use decisions in your area.
- Be heard by City Council.
- Join with other neighborhood associations.
- Learn what local resources we have in case of emergency.
- Be able to communicate with other members via email message boards.
- Hear from our Police Beat coordinator.
- Have a venue for speakers on issues of neighborhood concern

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SANTA BARBARA'S UPPER EAST ASSOCIATION

The UEA has been active in preserving and enhancing the residential character of the Upper East by hosting a series of workshops on Plan Santa Barbara, which is the City of Santa Barbara's effort to update its General Plan. For more information on Plan Santa Barbara and to see staff reports prepared by the City, see:

<http://www.YouPlanSB.org>. This effort has included several presentations by UEA Board vice-president Fred Sweeney to the Planning Commission and City Council particularly on the proposed expansion of second residential units within areas zoned for single-family homes in the Upper East. Our concerns relate to the need to preserve the historic quality of the Upper East by minimizing noise, traffic, and parking associated with second residential units. Letters presented by the UEA Board can be viewed on our website: <http://www.SBuppereast.org>.

Noise and traffic complaints from neighbors to Serra Hall, the parish hall of the Old Mission, located at the northeast corner of Los Olivos and Garden Street, were communicated to the Old Mission. Use of Serra Hall now requires private security guards to enforce the noise curfew at 10pm. The Franciscans, who manage the facility, have agreed to curtail events with amplified noise effective mid-October and are working on a long-term plan to provide permanent parking at the rear of the building.

We continue to monitor the construction activities occurring at St. Anthony's Seminary, the future home of San Roque School, to ensure traffic safety on Garden Street. MATT Construction voluntarily agreed to move their rock-crushing facility off-site to reduce excessive construction noise. Residents who formerly used the field at St. Anthony's to exercise themselves and their dogs are looking forward to the end of construction, estimated to be in 2011. The UEA supports to continue the public's long-standing access to this historic site.

These are examples of what the UEA can do. Please fill out the enclosed questionnaire so we may know YOUR concerns. Our annual meeting to elect a new Board of Officers will be held in November. Therefore, we urge you to send in your membership so you may be notified. If you are interested in becoming an officer of the Upper East Association, please contact Joan Livingston @ jmlsba@yahoo.com

