



Dear member,

Here's the March 2016 edition of the Upper East Association's monthly newsletter.

FYI

• **New UEA Board Member**

At its meeting on March 8, the Board appointed **Rod Hersberger** to fill the unexpired term of Saul Cooper who is leaving the area.

Rod and his wife **Susan** live at 106 East Los Olivos. They purchased the property in May 2014 and began living in it in August 2014 after renovations were completed.

The Hersbergers enjoy cooking and travel, including visiting grandchildren in DC and staying at a family home on the Lynnhaven River in Virginia Beach. Rod particularly likes maintaining and driving his cars.

Previously Rod was a Board member and secretary in a condominium association in Santa Barbara. He is a retired academic library administrator from the California State University.

The Board welcomes Rod and looks forward to working with him.

• **City Water Meter Size Matters – You Pay for It**

If you haven't been closely reading your City of Santa Barbara water bill, perhaps you should. Stated on page two is the fixed fee based on the size of the City-owned meter plus the fee based upon your actual water use. The bill states the meter size and the corresponding fixed fee. Currently per month, a 3/4" meter fee is \$34.19; a 5/8" meter fee is \$23.49; and a 1" meter fee is \$55.61. A 6% utility users tax is added to the fee.

Recently, a property owner with a 5/8" meter was being billed for a 3/4" meter. The erroneous billing likely started before the current owners purchased their home many years ago. The "error" was detected when installers were sent, as part of a regular replacement program, to remove the old 3/4" meter but found a 5/8" meter in the curb-side box.

A chance encounter with City meter installers aware of the error revealed that the billing staffs' remedy did not include informing the owner. Instead, City intended to install a 3/4" meter to have future meter size match the past and future billings.

City water division staff did not believe the 3/4" meter was needed; a 5/8" meter is typical for this size single-family property. The property now has a 5/8" meter, and the owner has been promised a refund.

So, it may be financially rewarding to verify that your bill is consistent with the size of the meter. You can find the size of the meter under "Billing Details" on the back of your monthly bill. To verify that your meter is the size shown in the details, locate and open your water meter box. Then measure the size of the pipe coming into the meter using a wrench.

Out and About in Upper East

- **Upper East History – The Hodges House**

One of the most impressive houses in the Upper East must be the Italian Mediterranean home at 2112 Santa Barbara Street on the corner of Santa Barbara and East Padre Streets.

The house was designed by noted architect Windsor Soule. In 1911 Soule moved from Boston to Santa Barbara, where in 1921 he joined two partners to found the architectural firm of “Soule, Murphy and Hastings”.

That same year he designed a beautiful new home for Walter Hodges, a vice-president of the Santa Fe Railroad. The Hodges family lived in the house until 1942, after which it was sold to Leo Sanders, founder of Congregation B’nai B’rith. The congregation acquired the house in 1951 and converted into a temple.

After a new temple was dedicated on San Antonio Creek Road in 1968, the building became the home of a New Age religious organization. Finally the Fielding Institute took over the building as its headquarters from 1983 till 2010.

The house was next put on the market as a residence. By then it had served institutional purposes for many years, and its once stately rooms had been divided into office spaces. An extensive remodel was required to make it into a livable home once more. As incredible luck had it, a search at UCSB’s Art, Design and Architecture Museum yielded the original plans by Soule for the Hodges House. They proved to be an invaluable resource in restoring the house to its former glory.

The building and the “Italianate-style” garden are both designated city landmarks.

- **Walking with Mo**

Mo is taking some time off walking and is sitting here while I write this month’s message. It turns out that March may go out with some good rain, so let’s keep our fingers crossed.

March is also the month we have started to see some movement on the RV parking situation, which is of major concern to our members, particularly those owning homes closer to downtown. Our Board committee continues to monitor your survey information and stays in regular contact with our assigned police beat officer. That appears to be helping as “No Parking” signs have been added to existing street sweeping signs on some streets. We have been told that more may be erected shortly and will keep you informed as additional information comes our way.

The challenge for all of us who live on the Upper East is that it is one of the most desirable Santa Barbara neighborhoods. This is due in no small part to residents investing considerable time and money into our homes, which creates that ambience others wish to enjoy.

Some appear to be folks who like to visit Santa Barbara and have embraced the new technology that makes it easy to identify short-term rentals here. Still others have found a getaway destination by purchasing properties here they might only occupy a few months out of the year. Finally there are those who dwell in their motor homes and chose to spend their time in our perceived safe neighborhood.

All of these choices make it a challenge for us who have invested in this neighborhood, not only in our homes, but as participants in the many organizations and activities that make Santa Barbara such a wonderful place to live. So, Mo and I are taking our walks with a little bit more in mind than just discovering the joys of the neighborhood.

Mo and I, and certainly the members of the Board, would like to hear your thoughts on these challenges that may have long-term effects on our neighborhood. Your feedback will help us lay

the ground work for how we continue to serve, protect, and maintain the ambiance and character of the neighborhood loved by the city as well as by visitors from around the world.



& Mo

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