



Dear member,

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

FYI

• **CALL TO ALL MEMBERS**

Diane Johnson, who has been our newsletter editor and one of the newest board members, has decided to step down because she has had the opportunity to purchase a home outside of our Upper East neighborhood. We certainly appreciate all of her hard work on the newsletter and her time on the board. We wish her the very best as she steps into the next chapter of her life.

Diane's departure leaves our current board with a vacancy. This is an appeal to our entire membership requesting that someone consider filling that vacancy. The board position is one that helps support the overall direction of the association and interfaces with the other eight members of the board. We generally meet for about two hours on the second Tuesday of each month. Additionally, there may be time spent working on a board sub-committee or a specific assignment, but generally it is the member's contribution of opinion and insight that is most important and allows us as a board to continue to meet the mission of the association.

If you are interested please don't hesitate to contact me, Fred Sweeney, at fredlsweeney@gmail.com or 805-687-0656) or any member of the board. Lisa Burns, who is our membership coordinator, will also be seeking individuals who might be interested in serving. Lisa's email address is lisaknoxburns@gmail.com.

• **The UEA Legacy Project**

The Board of Directors, as you know, has been very supportive of "Safe Passage," which is now being supported by a new 5013c organization. They are continuing to seek funding to do the work of a large committee that has come together since 2011 to pursue improvements to the walking, biking, and driving areas along the corridor. The corridor is defined by the upper portion



of Los Olivos at the foot of the Mission; Los Olivos and Laguna of Los Olivos at the foot of the Mission; Los Olivos and Laguna streets; and Mission Canyon Road. Although hundreds of volunteer hours, including numerous hours of in-kind professional services have been donated towards this project, the new organization wants to make sure that it is all inclusive, and at the same time provide for some income stream that supports the day to day work of the effort. They are now seeking membership of all the members of our community, especially from the three major neighborhood associations that border this area, the Upper East, the Riviera, and Mission Canyon associations.

Our board would ask that all of us consider becoming members of the Mission Heritage Trail Association. They have included a [link](#) to their membership application and also their website so as to further the ultimate development of a project that will make it safe for all of us to enjoy this cultural and historical area of our community.

- **Oak Tree Moths**

Some of you may have noticed that our oak trees, particularly on the 2400 and 2500 block of State Street are being denuded of leaves. Apparently this is a cyclical occurrence and the trees should eventually come back to a full bloom of green leaves. Should you have any specific concerns, please call the City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Department. They have jurisdiction over all street trees and the trees of our urban forest. They can be reached at 805-564-5433 or 805-564-5418.

- **Update on the Oversized Vehicle Parking Issue**

As many of you are aware, the Upper East Association Board has been closely monitoring the current RV parking situation in our neighborhood. There was a Special Ordinance Committee Meeting on June 7, 2016. Fred Sweeney and Steve Forsell attended this meeting. It was a continuation meeting from the May 17, 2016 meeting. After a presentation by staff and discussion among the three City Council Members who constitute the committee, it was voted 2-1 to choose Option Two, which was presented by City staff. Much of the discussion centered on safety issues as well as citizen complaints regarding RV parking on their streets in general. This will now go to the full City Council for their consideration. No date has been set for this meeting.

As a review, Option Two is to create a citywide ban on all oversized vehicle parking, subject to a series of special circumstance exemptions. In general, oversized vehicle means any vehicle which exceeds 25 feet in length, or 80 inches in width or 82 inches in height. Staff believes that this prohibition would encompass many RVs. Sign posting would be required. There would be several exceptions for the ordinance to be workable and practical, such as oversized vehicles engaged in loading and unloading or any government vehicle or public utility vehicle or oversized vehicles displaying a valid disabled placard or license plate. Any portion of the proposed ordinance may be changed by the full City Council. We will continue to monitor the situation.

Out and About in Upper East

- **Walking the Mission Heritage Trail**

Almost everyone who visits Santa Barbara comes to see the “Queen of the Missions.” Worldwide,

a picture of Old Mission Santa Barbara is so iconic that it is said to be among the most recognizable images of California. Many visitors to the Old Mission also take advantage of the proximity of the Museum of Natural History across Mission Creek to see outstanding Chumash artifacts. Most will also cross lower Mission Canyon/Los Olivos streets to see the Rose Garden.

The 7,000 Fourth Graders who take a docent-led tour of the Old Mission each year learn that the 18th century Mission system was designed to teach agriculture to a native population accustomed to hunting and gathering their food. The Padres reasoned that if the natives learned how to grow food on Mission land, they could more easily attend daily worship services. However, to grow food like corn in a dry summer climate required the construction of a sophisticated water reservoir and aqueduct system, which was completed in 1805. That aqueduct is the structure that looks like a wall separating the Rose Garden from the Historic Park, across lower Mission Canyon Road and Los Olivos Street. The Moorish fountain at the front of Mission contained purified drinking water for Mission residents, and the Lavanderia used the overflow in the washing basin below, before the water spilled out the mouth of a Chumash-made sculpture of a mountain lion on to row crops. That statue of a leaping mountain lion is the oldest public art in California.

- **Walking with Mo**

Mo and I were in a bit of dither regarding a series of break-ins and car thefts this past month on upper Garden Street. That is not always on our regular walking route, but we think now we are going to take that walk a little more frequently to keep an eye on things. Which reminds me, when you leave your home or car, even it is just for a minute (particularly when you are parked on the street) make sure to lock your doors.

In light of the recent outbreak of crime, the UEA board thought it might be time to have a "Neighborhood Watch" meeting. So a committee will be working on that and keep you informed of where and when that might be.

As to other business Mo and I have been into this last month, we have been carefully watching the RV parking situation in the neighborhood and continue to see the "regulars" parked in their favorite spots. So, we would encourage you to continue to weigh in on our on-line survey link to keep the data current. It turns out when I and others from the Board attend the ordinance and council meetings, this information is very impressive and helpful.

As to this month of June, let's hope the fire season is less disastrous than in years past and that your vacation plans are rewarding and fruitful. And that we have a beautiful Fourth of July in this place we get to call home.



& Mo

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