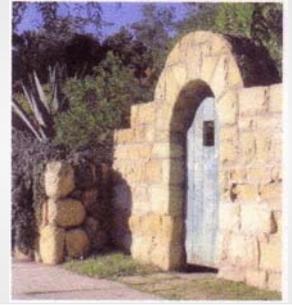


# Upper East News

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Upper East Association

September 2010



## A Message from the Board President ...



The Association has had a great year, with a 70% increase in membership and progress in managing the difficult challenges that threaten our quality of life.

We continue to work to ensure that *Plan Santa Barbara* will not adversely affect our neighborhood and that the City addresses our key traffic issues. The Association is now actively involved with the planning process for the modernization of the Museum of Natural History.

Through garden exchanges and an architecture walkabout we have expanded the Association's role this year from the serious business of neighborhood preservation to building on the sense of community in Upper East.

Many thanks for your participation, and I hope we can go from strength to strength in the new year.

Bob Kennedy  
President, Upper East  
Association Board of Directors

## Neighborhood Watch Crime Prevention Meeting Sep 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm



### Location to be announced

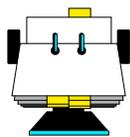
Santa Barbara Police Officer Scott Klacking will meet with Upper

East residents to discuss how to form a Neighborhood Watch group, and to share crime prevention tips to help keep our neighborhood safer.

A Neighborhood Watch group works to maintain lines of communication between residents, the City and law enforcement professionals while also addressing law enforcement concerns unique to the Upper East. The program asks neighbors to be alert, observant and caring, and to immediately report crimes and suspicious activity to law enforcement.

Please join us for this very important meeting. **RSVP Joan Livingston [jmlsba@yahoo.com](mailto:jmlsba@yahoo.com).**

## Membership



It's time to renew your membership in the Upper East Association for 2011, or to join if you are not yet a member.

The annual dues for next year will be \$15, a 40% reduction from 2010. We're able to reduce the cost per household because our membership has grown to over 125 property owners (up from 75 in March).

There are about 560 single-family residential properties in the Upper East, of which about 150 are owned by people who do not live at the property. So we have about 410 resident owners.

Our goal is to increase the membership to at least 300 owners, both resident and non-resident, which would allow us to further reduce the annual fee as well as strengthen our voice with City officials.

If you are currently a member, we hope you'll rejoin for 2011. If you're not yet a member, please join us.

## Update on Plan Santa Barbara



In April the UEA Board presented a position paper

on the General Plan update to the City Planning Commission. It addressed five issues that are key to preserving the historic nature of the Upper East neighborhood.

On July 29<sup>th</sup> the City Council met to review the current status of the

General Plan update. The Planning Commission's presentation to the Council echoed several of the key points in our position paper, including retaining the current regulations on secondary or 'granny' units and limiting the impact on the Upper East of development in the downtown core.

UEA Vice President Fred Sweeney addressed the Council to reiterate our position on these points.

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### **Traffic**



As we reported in the last newsletter, the Association submitted a traffic position paper to the City in the spring. Since then, we have been working with City officials to implement our key positions.

It has been, and will remain a tough slog. One of the key impediments is the fact/perception that traffic issues are actually worse in other parts of the City and the Upper East is not the "squeaky wheel." Nevertheless, we have made progress in the past few months, including:

1. A first step in addressing traffic issues at the corner of Santa Barbara St. and Constance
2. A promise by the City to present plans for fixing the safety issue at the corner of Anacapa and Los Olivos – on or about the end of the year.
3. Enhanced communication from the City of any planned traffic engineering changes

4. A promise by the City to address key pedestrian crossing markings

We are in this for the long haul and will continue to strongly campaign to improve traffic problems in our neighborhood.

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### **Garden Exchanges**

We held four successful garden exchanges this summer, with more still to come. Please mark your calendar for the next one, on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 9am to noon. We'll send out an email reminder that will include the location.



The October exchange will be on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Pumpkins perhaps?

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### **Beautifying the Upper East**



Santa Barbara created the **Adopt-A-Block** program to promote teamwork between City staff and residents to keep our neighborhoods clean and clear of graffiti and litter. Residents who join the program make a one-year commitment to keep a block free of graffiti.

Our goal is to have one resident on each block in the Upper East sign up for **Adopt-a-Block**. Please contact us at [jmlsba@yahoo.com](mailto:jmlsba@yahoo.com) to obtain a free Adopt-a-Block graffiti clean-up kit, which includes a plastic bucket with handle, spray bottle

of graffiti remover, application brush, safety goggles, rubber gloves, towel and directions for use. These kits are supplied by the City Public Works Department through **Looking Good Santa Barbara**.

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### **Walkabouts**

On August 25<sup>th</sup> Anthony Grumbine, an architect with Harrison Design Associates, led a group of more than 40 Upper East residents on an architectural tour of the Upper East. He pointed out a number of historically significant homes and the evolution of styles from Italianate through Craftsman to Spanish Colonial Revival. The tour included an inside look at the Fielding Institute building, which is being restored to its original purpose as a residence.



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### **Adult Ed Classes**

#### **Natural History**

Our neighbor, the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum, is co-sponsoring a number of classes in SBCC's Adult Ed program. If you're interested in local birds, star-gazing, or hiking be sure to check page 34 of the Adult Ed Schedule.

