

Welcome to the LVNA

Villager

The Newsletter of the Lakewood Village Neighborhood Association

Volume 49, Number 3

Sunnyvale, California

March 2006

Next LVNA General Meeting:
Thursday, March 9
at 7:00 p.m. in the Lakewood Park Building

- **Department of Public Safety Rep**
- **Voting for LVNA Board members**
- **Cookies and cold drinks**

President's Column

-Ursula Syrova, LVNA President

PLEASE VOLUNTEER—AND VOTE!

New LVNA board members will be voted into office at our March 9 general meeting (7 p.m. at the Lakewood Park Building). All positions are open for new people who are interested in promoting community in Lakewood Village: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Something to think about: If we don't have a board, we don't have people to organize the major activities we do every year: Dumpster Day, the Summer Picnic, the Holiday Parade, and the Lighting Contest. Call any of the current board members if you are interested or have questions (see the back page of any issue of the *Villager* for phone numbers).

Ballots will be available at the March 9 meeting. Come and vote! ■

Help Wanted, or Opportunity Offered?

-Brian Smithson

Sometimes it seems like only last week that I read a message from Craig Crawford, then president of the LVNA, on the lakewoodvillage@topica.com mailing list. But looking back, it seems like decades have passed. In truth, it was about four years ago that I read Craig's message, simply entitled "Help," in which he said that the *Villager* editor had moved out of the area and there was an urgent need for a new volunteer.

"The editor puts the articles in a newsletter format, that's it, no more," it said. "Some of the requirements are: Willing to spend 2 hours a month putting the newsletter together. A small amount of computer skills. A computer that has Microsoft Word." It sounded easy enough and I was unemployed at the time, so I signed up. I had no idea how much more would actually be required, but more importantly, I had no idea how much this job offered. I had plenty of computer experience and a solid set of English skills, but no experience with editing and publishing a newsletter, no experience with the LVNA, and for a resident of more than twenty years, surprisingly little knowledge of Lakewood Village. All of that would change.

January 2002 was my first issue, and it looked just like the previous month's issue. There was no time to get creative, because my first deadline was five days after I took the job, but it still took about eight hours to piece it together. I thought that the newsletter needed a little facelift, and so I gave the February issue a new look.

► *Continued on page 2*

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► *Help Wanted, from page 1*

During that year, I also began writing some of the articles, started a "history project" to find out more about Lakewood Village, and set up www.lvna.net and e-mail addresses for the LVNA board. In subsequent years, I tried different typefaces, added or removed clip art, used more or fewer photos, and even tried an online version of the newsletter for a month or two.

After two years of working solo, I was joined by Faith Rogers as a backup editor, then co-editor, and now THE editor. I'll help out if needed, but it's time for me to move on and make room for some fresh ideas. The *Villager* is in very capable hands.

By now, I know more than I ever imagined I'd know about newsletters, editing, Lakewood Village, the LVNA, and the joys and (mostly) sorrows of using Microsoft Word. Some of these skills have been directly beneficial in my career managing information security projects: I write a monthly newsletter for my company that is also translated into Japanese and distributed to colleagues on three continents, and I am the lead editor for a 400-page information security standard that is being developed by a dozen companies for the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). Both, alas, are written in Microsoft Word.

But those are skills that I could have developed in many other ways. I think that the real value of being an LVNA *Villager* editor has come from meeting and working with other LVNA volunteers and getting involved in my community. From this experience, I will always feel more connected to my home, Lakewood Village. ■



March in Your Yard and Garden

- Sow seeds of summer vegetables and annuals indoors.
- The bare-root season is almost over. Buy soon and plant when the weather is right for planting. Complete those orders for bare-root fruit trees from specialty nurseries, which usually stop shipping bare-root fruit trees by the end of March.
- Send in orders to seed companies before they run out of stock later in spring.
- Wet weather is good for indoor gardening chores such as cleaning and repairing garden tools. Do not forget to sharpen the blades of pruning tools and shovels, and to service the lawn mower.
- Begin weeding while the weeds are young and the ground is still wet.
- The rice growers in the Sacramento Valley remove the fibrous hulls from the grains. Rice hulls are an excellent, inexpensive soil amendment. Contact a rice growers' cooperative to find the nearest local source.
- Fertilize roses, citrus, and all flowering plants that are about to bloom. Trees, shrubs, and cool season lawns could use a high-nitrogen fertilizer.
- Fertilize azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons when they finish blooming.
- Prune spring-blooming plants as they finish blooming. Toward the end of the month (but before new growth begins), prune back both oleanders and crape myrtles to produce new flowering wood.
- Watch out for snails and earwigs.
- Use a strong spray from the hose to wash away aphids.
- After the danger of frost is past, prune hydrangeas, fuchsias, and bougainvilleas.
- Plant out summer bulbs such as amaryllis, callas, cannas, dahlias, gladiolus, lilies, and tuberous begonias.

These tips are from the book *Northern California Gardening: A Month-by-Month Guide*, by Katherine Grace Endicott, published by Chronicle Books, San Francisco, copyright 1996, and are used with the publisher's permission. ■

Put on Those Earphones and Do Some Walking

-Wendy Stanley, *Villager* Walker Coordinator, Lakewood Side

Need some help keeping that resolution to get more exercise? Here's your chance to help yourself and the neighborhood. I need a walker to deliver 82 newsletters along Lakewood and Bridgewood Drives starting and ending near Meadowlake. It takes less than one hour; I know because I've been doing it myself while I wait for a volunteer to take this route.

Delivering the *Villager* gives you an opportunity to contribute to the neighborhood and get some exercise, and it's also a great time to listen to music or to books on tape. If you're interested, please call Wendy at 745-1331. ■

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Lakewood Resident

LVNA Meetings

-Skip Gottschalk, LVNA Secretary

General Meetings

January

Neighborhood Preservation Officer Rich Gutierrez briefed us on the start of Lakewood Village Neighborhood Enhancement Program Phase 4.

The LVNA treasurer reported that we currently have enough funds to cover expenses, but some insurance costs (the 2005 picnic and the holiday parade) have not been billed to LVNA by United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara yet, and the amounts are not known.

Holiday Lighting Contest Awards were given to those winners who were at the meeting.

February

We discussed the new Sunnyvale hazardous waste requirements (see article elsewhere in this issue) pertaining to batteries and fluorescent light bulbs, which no longer can be disposed of in the household trash bins.

Mountain View City Council Member Greg Perry provided information on the proposed BART extension and tax increase.

Residents of Socorro Avenue requested that something be done to stop the speeding on that street. The LVNA Board submitted this concern to our Department of Public Safety Neighborhood Resource Officer.

Board Meeting

The board members discussed the proposed Cingular relay tower project in Lakewood Park.

The LVNA Board election is scheduled for the March General Meeting; the secretary will prepare the ballot.

Fund-raising was discussed, and grant application paperwork was reviewed. Guest speakers for upcoming general meetings were discussed. ■

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Lakewood Pony Baseball Is Here!

-Haley Cross,
Lakewood Pony Baseball

Red Sox, Yankees, A's, Braves, and many more teams have started. The teams are all formed, and some of the teams have already started practicing for the big games.

Don't forget the biggest day of Lakewood Pony Baseball—Opening Day! Teams, coaches, and players all get introduced on April 1. There will also be games and fun, such as cakewalks, after the ceremony.

If your team has not started practice yet, take your sons or daughters to the batting area or to the park and get them ready for a season of fun. ■

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City News

CitySkills Workshop

Space is filling up for the spring 2006 session of CitySkills. Go to CitySkills.inSunnyvale.com (do not type www) for information about this unique learning opportunity, and to download a schedule and application. March 20 is the application deadline, and classes start April 5.

Support Our Schools Program

In partnership with the Sunnyvale School District Education Foundation (SSDEF), Sunnyvale Auto Row has launched the Support Our Schools program. Through June 30, 2006, each time a new or used car is sold at participating dealerships, Sunnyvale Auto Row will donate \$100 on behalf of the buyer to support our local schools.

Car buyers wanting to participate must obtain a form from the car dealership, the Sunnyvale School District Education Foundation (<http://www.ssdef.org>), or the Sunnyvale School District (<http://www.sesd.org>), complete the name and address part of the form and

► *Continued on page 5*

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► *City News, from page 4*

designation and give it to the dealer in the course of the sale. The dealer will submit the forms and donations to SSDEF for processing and funds disbursement. For more information contact Geoff Ainscow at (408) 732-5662 or gbainscow@aol.com.

Catholic Charities Foster Grandparent Program

Catholic Charities is seeking seniors in Sunnyvale to help special needs children at Columbia Middle School. Can you help locate seniors who are: on a limited retirement income, in good health, and are able to work four hours per day? Foster Grandparents receive a small non-taxable stipend and other benefits. For more information, go to www.volunteertools.com/Tools/Opportunities.dll/Profile?SN=61930&Key=10163

For more information, contact Teresa Wong at Catholic Charities at (408) 944-0668. ■

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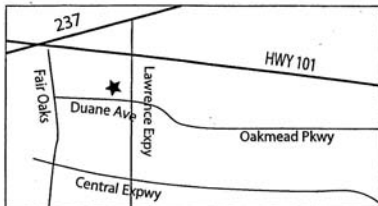
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Library News

Storytelling Festival

Ready to be transported to far-away places? Sunnyvale Library's 17th Annual Storytelling Festival can be your magic carpet.

The festival is a wonderful opportunity to hear storytellers share tales of fantasy, surprise, humor, and more. Storytellers are invited as well to share folk or modern tales up to 10 minutes in length. If you would like to be a storyteller, please call Edith Drewek or Kathleen Coleman at (408) 730-7293.

The festival will be held Saturday, March 18, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., in the library's Program Room. This free program is for children age 6 and older, and adults.

The Sunnyvale Library is at 665 West Olive Avenue, across from City Hall. Free parking is always available, and VTA line 54 serves the library. More information on Sunnyvale Library programs and activities is available on the library's Web site at www.sunnyvalelibrary.org, or by calling the Reference Desk at (408) 730-7300, TDD (408) 730-7501.

Interactive College and Career Practice Tests Now Available Online

The Sunnyvale Library has added Learning Express Library, a new subscription database, to the resources available on its www.sunnyvalelibrary.org Web site.

Learning Express Library offers unlimited, around-the-clock access to skill-building interactive courses in math, reading, and writing, as well as hundreds of online interactive practice tests, including grade-school achievement tests, SAT, GED, U.S. citizenship, and civil service practice exams.

Complete explanations accompany each response so test-takers understand why an answer is correct or incorrect.

"To the praise of the glory of His grace..."

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Sunday Services

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Corporate Prayer Meeting

To access the Learning Express Library, visit the library's Web site and click on *Databases and Online Resources*. Select *Learning Express Library* from the database list, and create your own user account by entering your Sunnyvale Library card number. Library cards are free and may be obtained from the library.

Bargains Aplenty at the Library Book Sale

Terrific bargains on a wide variety of books, movies, and music can be found at the Friends of the Sunnyvale Library Book Sale, Saturday, March 25, at Raynor Center, 1500 Partridge Avenue, Sunnyvale. ■

Thanks to Brian

-Faith Rogers, *Villager* Editor

Brian Smithson taught me the ins and outs of producing the LVNA *Villager*, including assembling articles, composing issues, and making clean printouts for the copying process. I will miss working with him (see his farewell on page 1).

In his four years as the *Villager* editor, Brian made many improvements to the newsletter, including introducing the month-by-month In Your Yard and Garden article, for which he got permission from the publisher of the source book; readers have told us that they like this feature and read it every month. His multipart series on the history of Lakewood Village, complete with photos and other graphics, gave us newcomers a fascinating look at our neighborhood through the years and sparked memories in residents who have been here since the 1950s.

Brian has a well-developed sense of humor, but his jokes are never at the expense of others, and they made our *Villager* composition sessions fun.

So thanks, Brian, for all that you've done for Lakewood Village—and will continue to do as Web master for our Web site, lvna.net. You are a stellar example of a dedicated volunteer. ■



Dolly Lara

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Sunnyvale Had a Head Start on New Hazardous Waste Rules

California's newest hazardous waste rules banned as of February 9 most consumer electronics, batteries, and mercury-containing products from being placed in the trash for disposal. But Sunnyvale has been giving its residents and small businesses a head start: many of these products can already be recycled right here in town.

Virtually all electronic devices that contain a battery or circuit board—including computers, printers, cell phones, stereos, and even some appliances like microwave ovens—are targeted in the new regulations, because many of them contain heavy metals like lead, copper, and chromium. When not disposed of properly, these hazardous waste products can pollute the environment. Household batteries, mercury thermometers, thermostats with mercury, and fluorescent tubes and compact bulbs are also among the prohibited products.

Sunnyvale residents with curbside recycling can recycle household batteries by placing them in a heavy-duty, sealed plastic bag and setting it on top of their recycling cart at curbside. Residents and small

businesses can also take fluorescent tubes, compact bulbs, and household batteries to the Sunnyvale Materials Recovery and Transfer (SMaRT) Station, 301 Carl Road, for recycling.

More information on hazardous waste recycling is available by visiting www.sunnyvalerecycles.org or calling (408) 730-7262, TDD (408) 730-7501. ■



Trouble with Your Landlord, a Tenant, or a Neighbor?

Project Sentinel, offered by the city of Sunnyvale, provides free conflict resolution services related to issues of housing. If you are a tenant, landlord, or homeowner with a situation you cannot resolve, this service may be beneficial. You can reach them at 408-720-9888 or online at www.housing.org.

Project Sentinel also offers information about below-market-rate rental housing, becoming a first-time homebuyer, and mortgage default counseling. For more information about these services, call (408) 720-0810 or e-mail PSHUDinfo@sbcglobal.net. ■

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Delivery (Lakewood)	Wendy Stanley	walkers@lvna.net	745-1331
http://www.lvna.net/Miscellany/Contact/contact.html			

Internet Links

LVNA Web Site	http://www.lvna.net
Lakewood Village E-mail List	http://www.topica.com/lists/lakewoodvillage
City of Sunnyvale	http://www.sunnyvale.ca.gov
Sunnyvale Library	http://www.sunnyvalelibrary.org
Sunnyvale Free Recycling	http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sunnyvalefree/
http://www.lvna.net/Resources/Links/links.html	

Upcoming Events

What	Where	When
Street Sweeping	Your street – move your cars!	3/7 Fairwood 3/14 Lakewood 4/4 Fairwood 4/11 Lakewood
Compost Workshop	Sunnyvale Community Center Arboretum	3/18, 10 a.m. – noon
Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off	Carl Road, near the SMaRT Station	3/18, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Free extra dumping	SMaRT Station	4/1, 4/2
LVNA Villager Editorial Deadline	Contact editor@lvna.net	3/31
LVNA Meeting	Lakewood Park Bldg.	3/9, 7 p.m.
http://www.lvna.net/Resources/Calendar/calendar.html		

Important Phone Numbers

Public Safety – Emergency	911
Public Safety – Non-emergency	730-7100
Speeding cars; parking complaints; traffic signal repair; dead animals	Dispatch 730-7180
Noise complaints; homeless complaints; commercial vehicles on residential streets	Desk Officer 730-7110
Illegal storage or buildings; decrepit fences or buildings; weed problems; illegal home businesses; rental housing complaints; commercial vehicles on private property	Neighborhood Preservation 730-7610
City streets, sidewalks, trees, streetlights, street sweeping	Public Works 730-7505
Nuisance vehicle hotline	730-7706
Drug hotline	245-3784
Graffiti hotline	730-7680
Shopping cart pickup	725-1010
Neighborhood liaison	730-7472
http://www.lvna.net/Resources/Phones/phones.html	



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