

Village Voice

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Village Voice – A new Newsletter to be published quarterly (Hopefully sometime after each Board Meeting.) The objective of the Voice is to keep all our homeowners informed of what's doing at the Village - sometimes serious and at times silly, but always informative. We want the Voice to be part of living in the best-gated community in Orange –KENSINGTON!

Introducing the Prez. for 2008

Bill (and wife Joyce) joined our Village family about 4 years ago and this year he volunteered to be a Board Member. Little did he know that the Board would elect him to be their leader! Once you get to know Bill Fairbanks, you will agree it could not have been a smarter choice. He is a good listener, courteous, respectful, gentle, concerned, good leadership skills, and sincerely wants us to not only get along but like each other. Yes, I forgot to add, that he's a dreamer as well. Bill has extensive background (35 years) in Management at Beckman Instruments, has a Master's Degree in Management Theory from UCLA and has extensive experience in several Homeowners' Associations.

Bill is seeking new blood (THAT BE YOU!) to replace the old guard. The guard will still be around for brain-picking but it's the new blood that has to keep the Village in tiptop form. So what do you say – are you in? Contact Bill and let's take the Village up another notch. He (and the Board Members) can be reached at Directors@kensingtonvillage.com.

Just Fencing

Winds sure did a job on our fences and to not only those in various stages of disrepair. The affected and frustrated homeowners had to decide to repair or replace. The Architectural Committee reports that close to 10 families have replaced the knockdowns with vinyl fencing. It seems that vinyl is in the same ballpark cost-wise as wood and significantly less expensive than block. Congratulations to these residents as they not only got a long-term structure but the fences look good too!

New is Better?

Your Board decided that the "current common groundskeeper" (try saying that three times) was not doing a satisfactory job and has hired a new service. These new folks will have to catch up on work not done by the previous group and therefore progress may appear slow going. They should catch up soon and be on schedule with dead plant removal and new plantings. We're sure this move is for the better. Bill is in the process of creating a Landscaping Committee to oversee the group and do related work. If you're interest lies in gardening, we can use your expertise! Contact Bill.

Prospect-ing

In case you missed the announcement in the newspaper, Prospect is going to be repaved starting the first week in May and lasting 45 to 60 days. Lanes on Prospect will be designated for north and south traffic as needed. The signals at intersections of Walnut, Spring and Bond will remain operational. Expect the usual unexpected street delays!

A Slasher in Our Midst?

It can't happen here? One of our neighbors on Oxford Ct. reported that her brother, visiting overnight, came out in the morning to find one of his tires slashed. A random or deliberate act? We are not sure, but be advised, be alert, and report anything suspicious.

Stoop 'N Scoop Contest

In an attempt to bring attention to the ever-increasing problem of unclaimed dog poop on the walks of our Village, Bill has donated prizes (his own money) for the best poem written on the subject – by you, the homeowners! He is offering \$25 as first prize and \$10 second prize. He has also identified an impartial judge and promises to publish the winning rhymes herein. (Poet to relinquish all rights). We hope you can do better than this submission from Bill:

*While walking my dog in Kensington Village
Being careful not to cause some slippage
I shall remember to always stoop 'N scoop
And pick up all of my doggie's poop
And place it in a zip lock bag
For private disposal in the garb-bag
This makes our grass and walks look so good
And everyone's proud of Kensington's neighborhood.*

Parking vs. Sweeping

The eleventh commandment is “Thou shall not park on the street on Thursday”. Holy! Everybody knows that Thursday afternoon has been set aside for street sweeping – yet there are offending cars every week. Ticketing cars and issuing fines is not neighborly and only divisive. Since we can't sweep the problem away, we're asking if anyone has any suggestions (that are not mean-spirited but progressive), to help forgetful households to honor this day. Bill and the Board would love to hear from you.

Renting Need Not Be a Problem

One can appreciate that in this real estate down-market, a homeowner may opt to rent rather than sell at a substantial loss. As the housing market cools, we can expect continued difficulty in selling, resulting in more renters in the Village. At times, some of these folks come to us with a different mind-set, as they don't feel the need to abide by Village ways. Bill Fairbanks believes that we must find ways to instill into renters a level of obligation to the neighbors, if not the Village. The creation of a Welcoming Committee of Board members was suggested, to meet with renters (or new owners) and have a friendly discussion on what is expected as a member of the community. Any other ideas? Contact Bill or the Board.

Looking Out

Needing to know more about the NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM, Bill has invited Orange Police Crime Prevention Specialist, Michelle Micallef to speak at an information meeting (April 30 at 6:30 pm at the pool). She will describe the program so we, as a community, can decide if we can and should have a “watch program”. She will bring a door prize to entice the hesitant to attend. Come, we'll squeeze everybody in. See you on Wednesday, last week in April. We are looking out for you!