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JANUARY 2009 EDITION

A fond farewell from the 2008 Board

It has been two years since Tracy Vernon and I were elected to serve on the Sheffield Village Board of Directors. As we are now "termed out," in reflection a lot has been accomplished with the strong support and work of other Board members, Ann, Bill Jay, Charles, John, Rick and Sal, our trusted Bookkeeper Steve and the many, many Village Volunteers that make Sheffield Village such a wonderful place to live. I want to thank everyone for their efforts and have been asked to summarize what has occurred in the Village in these last two years.

The Safety Committee:

- A Safety Committee was formed, and with it the Neighborhood Watch was given new life thanks to the efforts and direction of Villager Deni Hodges. With this, our Neighborhood Watch signs were replaced and new ones were added to several locations.
- The Yahoo Safety group "Sheffield Watch" <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sheffieldwatch/> has more than doubled to 141 members and its use continues to alert Villagers to problems in the area.
- The Safety Committee worked with the City of Oakland to evaluate the safety of some of our intersections. As a result, a new Modular curb system/safety dividers were installed at Marlow/Foothill and new striping was installed at Revere/Foothill as well as the lower Revere/Marlow intersections.
- Block Captain participation has increased.
- Graffiti has been aggressively addressed by using the city's hotline <http://www.oaklandpw.com/Page808.aspx>. As a result "taggers" have not returned as no graffiti has been seen in the Village in more than 9-months. The blighted property on Foothill was also brought under control.
- There was cooperation with the Recreation Center and a booth for Parks for Peace event was provided.
- Because of close relationship fostered with Oakland Police Ranger Officer Bhatt, Officer Bhatt was able to successfully clear out the large homeless camp on the open space hill.

Park improvements:

- The first and main part of the pathway through Onset Park was completed.
- Handrails were installed on the Onset Park stairway making them safer.
- The very large and dangerous pine tree was removed from the top of Onset Park as well as several Acacias in Milford. Also the large pine tree that came down in the storm and damaged the tennis courts was removed and the tennis courts were repaired.
- A wonderful bench was purchased and installed at the tennis courts which, although chained up, was then promptly stolen and replaced with a better bench handmade by Villager Charles Currat.

The Sheffield Hills Alliance

- The Alliance railed over the past two years to bring renewed awareness and energy to the proposed development of the hills to our north. The Alliance worked with many other organizations including the Vice Mayor's office, the Sierra Club and surrounding neighborhoods.
- The Alliance was very active on the East Bay Regional Park District's Measure WW campaign and, as a result, the Measure passed. This will hopefully permanently secure the land from development.
- The Alliance will continue to monitor the acquisition of this land and report to the Board.

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A NOTE FROM THE NEW BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Villagers,

I was the Parks Chair last year and had the chance to be supported by an experienced committee of enthusiasts. It was a good year for the Parks, as you can see summarized in this issue. It is with an equal pleasure that I will continue serving on the Board of Directors this year, this time as President. **Rick Jones** will continue as *Vice President* and **Fred Miller** will rejoin the Board as *Secretary/Treasurer*.

After moving to the Village in 2006, my wife and I quickly started discovering all the unique little things that make our neighborhood by the hills so enjoyable. Joining the Board of the HOA was a good opportunity for me to take part in the Village activities.

I am looking forward to being involved another year and getting to know each other. Do not hesitate to contact the Board, join the meetings, or send us your comments or concerns. Getting feedback from you is the best way to keep the HOA active and answer your needs! We will try our best.

If you think you may have some spare time please consider joining the Board and keep the spirit alive, we still have seats available this year. From getting the chance to hear historical tidbits about the Village to enjoying visibility in the life of the city of Oakland, the Board has a lot to offer and is not going to cost you more than a few hours of your time here and there.

The SVHOA wishes you a happy and healthy new year!

For the Board,

Charles Currat (2009 President)

**NEXT
BOARD MEETING:**

**WEDNESDAY, 7 PM
JAN. 28, 2009**



By Jill and Jennie

I don't know about you, but when I was a kid we used to get graded on "citizenship." I think if I were graded today, I wouldn't get a very high mark. I'm embarrassed to say that I can't remember the last time I went to a SVHOA Meeting (including the annual one that I recently missed) or helped out with the overall "neighborliness" of our wonderful Village, but I can do a little bit to better my grade by telling you all about some folks who get "A+"!

Serving on the SVHOA Board of Directors can often be a very thankless job. From experience I know that one hears more about what the Board of Directors ISN'T doing right, than any sincere accolades from the general public. I believe this is the nature of the beast and an inherent part of being a good "citizen." Let me now, officially, thank and applaud Greg, Tracy, and John, who have served us well these past few years on our Board. In addition, thank you to Fred and Rick who will continue the good fight to keep our Village the place that we love. And a giant thank you and welcome to Charles who has taken up the mantle of "citizenship" for the next two years. If you see any of these fine folks as you go about your day, please stop and shake the hand of a true friend and "citizen" and let them know they are "A+" in our books!

Continued from front

Community activities:

- Villagers Gerald and Susanna Oto continued leading the successful and popular annual Village Easter egg hunt.
- The annual *Make A Difference Day* led by Villager Dawn Chesney continues to provide much needed food for the local Elmhurst Food Bank.
- The annual *National Night Out Against Crime* event has increased in-home participations and, as a result, visits by police and civic leaders.
- The Village college education scholarship program is strong. So much so that last year we had two such very strong candidates that both Villager's Jamie Forest and Eric Holmes won scholarships. We wish Jamie and Eric success in their college career! Many thanks to all of the Villager donations that fund this scholarship.
- Long overdue repairs and a new paint job refreshed our Sheffield Village entrance sign.
- Jim Demersman the director of the historic Dunsmuir-Hellman House has worked cooperatively with the Village on several events including opening their back gate for new summertime outdoor movie nights.
- Although it rained, the *Get To Know Your Neighbor Garage Sale* was a success and is planned to be repeated in future years.

Other Activities:

- The upgrades to the Recreation Center were completed. The reopening event was a joint venture with the Village, Oakland's Recreation Department and Vice Mayor, Larry Reid's office. Special thanks to Larry's staff, especially Pat Mossberg and to former Recreation Center Director Kevin McTighe.
- The Crier and website have never looked better, thanks to our Editor in Chief Jennifer Yuen and Webmaster Carole Delozier.
- The Board moved the Village bank accounts to Bank of America to help us save money on bank fees.

--Reports by Greg Novak

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NOON

BLOCK CAPTAINS