

CRIER

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News from Beat 35Y

Mark Muller *Covington Block Captain*

The monthly meeting of Beat 35Y, South Hills Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (SHNCPC), was held on January 21st in the St. Paschal's gym. For those Villagers unfamiliar with this organization, SHNCPC is a volunteer organization of citizens from the Grass Valley HOA, Chabot Highlands, Sheffield Village HOA, and the Oak Knoll Area that comprise Oakland Police Department's Beat 35Y. Their mission is to "provide a venue for the citizens who live, work, or worship in Beat 35Y to identify and help in the resolution of those issues affecting their quality of life."

At this meeting several topics were discussed. First, Officer Steve Vierra provided an update of recent crime within Beat 35Y. A couple of interesting items were noted: 1) Some residents have noticed that incidents of crime seemed to be more prevalent on Mondays. This was interesting because, like Sheffield Village, most residents of the South Hills have garbage pickup on Mondays. Officer Vierra said there could be a correlation because offenders could be casing homes where no garbage cans were being left out for pickup, thereby showing that the residents may be out of town. This is an excellent reason why all Villagers should **get to know their neighbors** and watch out for each other. If you plan to be away on a Monday ask your neighbors if they would mind taking out your cans and returning them

after pickup. It's an easy thing to do and may help limit incidents of crime in the Village. 2) Residents were complaining about some very aggressive solicitors/peddlers coming to their doors. We have had this issue in the Village too. Officer Vierra reminded us that the City of Oakland requires that **all solicitors** be required to carry a City of Oakland Peddler's License. If someone comes to your door, ask him or her to present this license. If they can't produce one, report them to the police.

Another item discussed included a proposal for a "Teen Curfew" ordinance that is being developed by Larry Reid's office and will be up for discussion at the **Public Safety Committee meeting on February 10th at 5:30 pm at City Hall**. There was also a presentation on the "Safe House Sobering Center" on Fairmount Ave. in San Leandro, a new outreach program developed to assist people having problems with alcohol. Finally, a gentleman from the Federal Communications Commission gave a presentation about the upcoming transition to digital-only television signals. Anyone with concerns about this issue is encouraged to call the FCC at 1-888-callFCC or go to www.DTV.gov.

For more information about the South Hills Neighborhood group you can go to their website at www.shncpc.com.

Good Gnus

By Jill

I must start this column with a disclaimer admitting a bias: I love librarians! It is rare that I have met a librarian that I didn't adore almost on sight! I go to libraries wherever I am—they enhance all my vacations—and I use the local ones, constantly. I have library cards to seven libraries surrounding us and STILL think I am getting presents when I get to borrow a book!

My last delightful exchange with a bibliophile was in the Children's Library in the main San Leandro Library. I met the lovely Tina Shaffer, Senior Library Assistant, because I was so taken with an exhibit she had arranged.

A moving, astounding photographic exhibit by Lynn Blogett, called "Finding Grace: The Face of America's Homeless," was featured on the walls in the Children's Library. These consisted of enlargements of photos of men, women and children who had fallen on hard

Continued on page 2

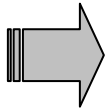
**NEXT
BOARD MEETING:
WEDNESDAY, 7 PM
FEB. 25, 2009**

Volunteers needed for Parks Committee – No experience required

We need volunteers for the Parks Committee. Over the last several years the committee has been very active in bringing about Park improvements. We have contracted for the tennis court, the path across Onset Park and the railings in Onset. We have arranged for the removal of several dangerous trees and have made numerous maintenance improvements. The problem is that we started as a committee of eight to 10 volunteers and now we are down to four. We need your help. We need fresh "blood." Come join us. Be a part of improving the neighborhood. Call Steve at 562-9795.

We have a five to 10 year list of improvements in the pipeline (see list at right), but you may have other good ideas that need consideration. Come on! Join us.

Five to ten year plan – Park improvements



- 1) **Extend Onset pathway around the cork oak and up to the upper Middleton entrance.**
- 2) **Several benches to compliment Onset paths.**
- 3) **Handrails for stairs in middle of Milford Park.**
- 4) **Replace or improve stairs in Milford Park.**
- 5) **Link the Milford stairs to existing paths that lead to Roxbury**
- 6) **Repair or replace pathway into Milford Park from Middleton.**
- 7) **Replace driveway into Milford Park from Roxbury (up to tennis court).**
- 8) **Link foot of Milford stairs to back of tennis court.**

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times and were currently homeless. The irony? The photos weren't depressing as such; they were communicating how "regular" the people were. The photos had real dignity to them, and showed the love families feel for each other and the respect the photographer felt for her subjects.

They were from a book that has been published, and these photos are a part of a traveling exhibit. Tina had seen this book and arranged to have the photos displayed in the library because they represented such diversity. I was SO taken with the exhibit, and with the fact that Tina (a darling for many reasons) had taken the initiative and time to arrange this touching and creative project to be shared with library patrons. Thanks, Tina. You're very appreciated!

DUES REMINDER

Most of you have already paid your dues for 2009, but for those who haven't, please do so soon. Second Notices are scheduled for later this month. It will save the Association money and effort if you pay soon.

And remember, we no longer have an office at the Recreation Center. Dues should be mailed to or dropped off at 3032 Roxbury Ave.

If you are a new homeowner and have an e-mail address, please contact me at bookkeeper@sheffieldvillage.org. Billing via e-mail saves the HOA money.

If you have any questions, call me at 562-9795.

--Steve Murphy
SVHOA Bookkeeper

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2009

BLOCK CAPTAINS