



the sheffield vil l age
CRIER

founded in 1943

october 2003 edition

Board votes to increase annual assessment to \$75

SVHOA Board Editorial

At its September meeting, the SVHOA Board voted unanimously to recommend an increase in the yearly SVHOA assessment from the current \$30 to \$75. There will be a Village-wide vote on the recommendation by the end of the year.

In order to pass the increase, two-thirds of those villagers who vote must be in favor of the increase.

Because the current assessment of \$30 has not been increased for a number years despite steadily increasing costs – including the recent large insurance premium increase – the annual budget is

no longer big enough to conduct even the minimal functions of the association.

The current bylaws restrict any increases beyond \$30, which is why we must take a village-wide vote to change them.

The SVHOA has been able to make do in recent years because many Villagers have responded generously to the SVHOA's annual requests for voluntary donations to supplement the low assessment.

However, the SVHOA should not have to depend on voluntary donations to carry out its core functions. Moreover,

this year even the voluntary donations were not enough to cover our basic costs and we had to dip into our dwindling savings account to make up the difference.

Currently, we have expenses in the \$16,000 range, while without voluntary donations, our revenue from dues is only about \$10,000.

By increasing the assessment to \$75 effective in 2004, the SVHOA can carry out its core functions, invest in park upkeep, maintenance and improvements, and begin to build a prudent reserve.

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Presence of neighborhood blight: part two

Don Melcher *SVHOA Vice President*

In the August issue of the Crier, I discussed the subject of what constitutes neighborhood blight. Some of the offenders took notice and corrected the problem. Thank you. Unfortunately, others did not.

Delivered with this Crier is a pamphlet from the City of Oakland on the subject. It discusses legislation enacted in 1998 addressing the issue of blight. Please take the time to read it and then examine *your* property. Are *you* in compliance?

Specifically, the most obvious offenses involve either trash and debris on the your property and the parking of recreational vehicles, boats or inoperable vehicles in driveways, front yards or city streets.

PLEASE correct this problem if it exists on

your property. If you don't within the next 30 days, the homeowners association will contact you about the matter. If you fail to respond after that contact, the problem will be reported to the City of Oakland for enforcement.

The pamphlet points out that the possible penalty for non-compliance is an assessment fee totaling \$727. Failure to pay that fee will result in a lien being placed against the property with an additional assessment of \$250 for each time the unpaid fees are liened and recorded.

Wouldn't it be better if you corrected the problem without that happening? The homeowners association, your neighbors and the City of Oakland ask for your cooperation in this matter.



BOARD MEETING

**Tuesday,
Oct. 28,
6:30 p.m.**

*All welcome
to attend. Funding for
Fire Assessment District
to be discussed.*

new Crier newsletter email address: **SVCRIER@AOL.COM**

Any editorial submissions, questions, comments, regarding content of the Crier can be directed to the editor.

New Stop Signs at Covington and Roxbury

Sally Barros *SVHOA Plans Chair*

As you may have noted, the City of Oakland has installed new stop signs at the west and east sides of the intersections of Covington at Roxbury. Since concerns have been raised to the board about the need for those signs, I gathered some information from transportation engineers I work with about the impacts on these types of stop signs.

Specifically, there were questions about the need for a stop sign at all and a concern that the placement of the signs would increase pollution and noise levels at those corners.

According to the traffic engineers I spoke to, the fact that there is a blind curve going south on Roxbury approaching Covington, and due to the convention within the Village that Roxbury has the right of way, it made sense to formalize that convention through the placement of the stop sign.

Institute of Traffic Engineer (ITE) data shows that while there are noise and exhaust levels at any stop signs,

the magnitudes decrease significantly with approach speeds that are less than 25 mph. Since most of the traffic on Covington is not through-traffic, cars are probably (or should be) traveling at speeds between 10-15 mph and the negative effects of the stop signs are not that significant.

Finally, the engineers stated that given the fact that Roxbury is serving as a main entry way into the Village for residents of Marlow and Covington, and probably carries a large percentage of cars entering our neighborhood, it made sense for a stop sign to be placed at that location in order to avoid traffic conflicts.

I'd like to add that I'm a planner and not a traffic engineer, and that if any of you have any other concerns or questions about the stop sign placement, it would be best to contact the City of Oakland. And, on a personal note, I feel much safer about both driving home to my place on Marlow Drive as well as riding my bike around the village with the new stop sign in place.

Village fire prevention concerns

Dawn Chesney *Marlow Drive Resident*

Did you know there is no \$\$\$\$ in the City budget for Fire Prevention and Vegetation Management for 2004?

What does that mean to us? No goats grazing in the hills, no fire patrols on high fire danger days, closing of fire stations....in other words, we're going to be at risk for another fire storm. History shows there is a major firestorm every 20 years. The last one was in 1991.

What can you do?

Attend the Homeowners Association Meeting on Tuesday, October 28 at 6:30p.m.

Learn about the newly developed Fire Assessment District. Members of the Committee will attend to educate us on the costs and benefits of an Assessment District. The funding of the Fire Assessment District will be put to a public vote next month, your educated vote will count!

If you have questions prior to the HOA meeting, please contact Dawn Chesney (dawn.chesney@target.com, 510-430-9990).

Here's your opportunity!

SVHOA needs *you* to become a board member for 2004!

Two of the current members, Matt Cronin (Parks Chair) and Gail Rappi (Secretary/Treasurer) will not be able to serve again at the end of their second year on the board.

Our president, Charlie Ridgell, tried to resign in April, but has been staying on at the request of the board (thank you Charlie!).

WE NEED YOU TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY!!

Please contact any board member if you are interested in becoming a board member for 2004.

The **Bookmobile** is a free service of the Oakland Public Library. This library on wheels parks at the recreation center every 3 weeks on Mondays, from 3:45 to 4:30pm.

Services offered include:

- * New library card registration
- * Placing books on hold
- * Regular delivery of books requested
- * Three week check out of adult and juvenile books
- * Large print books and books on tape
- * Video collection
- * Popular magazines for check out
- * Flyers announcing library events

In March 2004, the City of Oakland will own a brand new **Bookmobile** with up-to-date computer equipment, new library materials, and a TV/VCR for the use and enjoyment of Oakland's residents. Your participation will keep these complimentary services coming to the village. Without it, these services will be sacrificed. Check it out!

Bookmobile visits:

Nov. 3

Nov. 24

Dec. 15

Jan. 5, 2004

Marlow speed bumps one step closer

Charlie Ridgell *SVHOA President*

Badly needed speed bumps on the 200 block of Marlow Drive between Revere and Roxbury (Clubhouse side) are one step closer to becoming reality.

Speed bump petitions require signatures from at least 67% of the residences on the affected block. The Marlow Drive petition received overwhelming support (over 80%) from the 200 block as speeding has become a nuisance and a danger. It's sad that we have had to resort to this, but other measures have not slowed down the few speeders that have made this action necessary.

While we don't have an exact date for installation, the City's budget crisis may cause a delay. I was told that our petition was approved because it was originally requested prior to the elimination of the speed bump program in this year's City budget.

In the meantime, on behalf of the Marlow Drive Villagers and the children who use the park, be good neighbors and please keep it under 25 mph! Driving at 25 mph instead of 35 mph, or even 40 mph (as some do), for the half-mile between Revere to the 580 Freeway will only take you a few seconds longer!

What do you a t to

o a o

Top 10 characters to be for All Hallow's Eve, according to Village preschoolers.

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With Halloween approaching, remember to be extra cautious drivers and keep porch lights on, ready with your Halloween treats, for our Village mermaids, ballerinas, and Batmans.



Saturday, October 25 is Make A Difference Day, the national day of doing good!

Make A Difference Day is coming and we're planning our third annual Sheffield Village Food Drive! Last year we delivered over 900 containers of food to a local food bank!! Want to be part of this year's FUN and REWARDING event? Here's how you can help:

☞☞☞☞ Donate non-perishable food

☞☞☞☞☞☞☞☞☞ Collect food on Sat, 10/25

☞☞☞☞☞☞☞☞☞☞☞☞☞☞☞ Deliver food to the food bank

Want to be involved? Please contact Dawn Chesney at dawn.chesney@target.com (h) 510-430-9990, (w) 510-727-3733.

Thanks in advance for your support!

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If we collect all the 2004 dues at \$75, our budget would go up to about \$23,000, which will allow us to make sorely needed improvements to our properties. For example, our two parks, Milford and Onset, are in serious need of upgrades and this year, we've only spent around \$1,500 on them. We need to take out a couple more dying trees, trim some other ones and bring water in so we can beautify portions of them.

The tennis court is either in need of repair or demolition, which will be expensive either way.

We could also put in picnic benches, a playground, a real dog run and many other amenities!

However, without the increase, we might have to turn our Milford and Onset Parks over to the city, and given that they are our only substantial assets, there is no reason to do so.

While the proposed increase from \$30 a year (\$2.50 a month) to \$75 (\$6.25 a month) per year is large in percentage terms, it is only because it has been so low for so long. At \$75 a year, it will still be low, and lower than most HOAs in less desirable neighborhoods.

The Board estimates that next year, it would take an assessment of about \$60 to pay for core SVHOA functions.

We voted to go up to \$75 to give us a little breathing room in the next few years.

Your five-member, volunteer Board unanimously and strongly urges a YES vote. Let's keep Sheffield Village—the Jewel of Oakland—shining!

Village Corner

Do have a **holiday recipe** to share? With Thanksgiving nearing, here's a chance to share your delicious recipes with fellow Villagers.

The Crier hopes to gather enough to create an eclectic menu offering for Thanksgiving. Select appetizers, drinks, main dishes, desserts...

contact the editor: svcrier@aol.com

For reference:

Non-Emergency Police
777-3333

Patrol Officer--cell phones
520-9235 (9 p.m.-5:30 p.m.)
520-9935 (2 p.m.-1 a.m.)

City Park Security (Ranger)
851-2130

Questions? Comments?

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635-2898

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568-3878

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638-4835

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Home Owners Association
247 Marlow Drive
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CLUBHOUSE UPDATES

Here's the latest update of Clubhouse/Recreation Center happenings as brought to you by Center Director, Michelle Fulper. Contact the center at 638-7190 for more information.

****NEW: Puffins**

is a "parents' time-out" program designed for children ages 24 months to 5 years, 6 months. Sessions will include art, songs, and outdoor activities from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month. Wear comfortable clothing and pack a lunch. Pre-registration required, no drop-ins; max. 16 children; Oakland residents \$10, non-residents \$12.

Session #1 October 9

#2 November 13

#3 December 11

****PLANS IN PROGRESS: Boreal Ski Trip**

The recreation center is planning a Family Ski Trip to Boreal. Keep an eye out for further information this coming winter!

Tot Time Playgroup

is a loosely scheduled preschool-aged playtime. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-4 p.m. parents and their young children play at our playground and field using our great supply of sand toys and sports equipment.

Wednesday Art

with Rob Harper will begin again on Sept 24. Rob has taken the summer off to prep for a couple of his larger shows (one in NYC) and is now ready to come share more of his incredible art and humor with anyone that wishes. This is an all-ages class that will offer you the use of assorted media to hone your art skills. It is a free ALL-ages class from 3-5 p.m. every Wednesday.



Message board

wel come new baby Penny, born on Sept. 29, 8 lbs. 2 oz., is the newest addition to the Frick family on Covington. New mommy Jen says that Penny is the "spitting image of (her) but luckily has the calm and cool temperament of her father."

car for sale 1969 Mercedes-Benz, white, 4-door, completely restored (new motor, tires, etc.). Available for viewing 562-7014.

col or printer for sale Lexmark printer. New and unopened inkjet printer. \$25. Contact 638-2980.

printer stand/extra tabl e for sale \$15. 638-2980

Contact the editor to submit classifieds/events/editorial by Saturday of the second week of the month. Classifieds run for one time only each month until further instructed from resident.

We do our best to deliver the Crier to each household. If, for whatever reason, you do not receive a Crier, extra ones are available at the clubhouse or email svcrier@aol.com.