



FROM THE FIELDS

A Newsletter of the Los Olivos-Riker Neighborhood Association

Second Quarter 2012



www.lorneighborhood.com



Facts, Figures, Fun, and Frivolity from the South Side

COME JOIN LORNA

Our 2012-2013 LORNA memberships start on July 1. With your support, we will continue to make Los Olivos-Riker a safer and more beautiful neighborhood to live in.

The *LORNA year* is from July to June. We decided, for sanity's sake, to do the renewals by LORNA year in July. However, neighbors are free to join or renew whenever they like. We're on the honor system!

Some of our highlights from this past year include:

- ▲ Winning Second Place in the Colmo del Rodeo Parade
- ▲ Being awarded a \$2500 grant from the Community Foundation of Monterey County
- ▲ Laying down cobble to beautify the center median on Los Olivos and Blanco
- ▲ Being awarded a \$250 federal Community Development Block Grant
- ▲ Beautifying Kipling Street along the agricultural fields
- ▲ Establishing a 28-member-strong Citizen Patrol
- ▲ Reducing crime and combating graffiti

And most importantly...

- ▲ Making new friends in the neighborhood we live in!

New members will receive a free **Proud Member** sign for their yard, and member renewals may choose between a **Neighborhood Watch** gate sign or **No Soliciting** sign.

This year we want to:

- ▲ Install a surveillance camera system to deter crime
- ▲ Re-erect signage at the intersection of Los Olivos and Blanco
- ▲ Expand our Citizen Patrol program
- ▲ Establish a neighborhood walking/fitness class
- ▲ Label storm drains
- ▲ Partner with the city in repairing sidewalks
- ▲ Develop a neighborhood wide disaster preparedness plan
- ▲ Research starting a community garden

And...

- ▲ Address any issues that you may have!

But we need your help! Renew your LORNA membership today! It doesn't matter if you're a renter or homeowner or just moved into the area. You will benefit from what LORNA has to offer. You can find the form at www.lorneighborhood.com/membership.

You can also mail your donation of any amount to:

LORNA Membership, c/o Villa Serra, 1320 Padre Drive, Salinas CA 93901.

Please include your e-mail address so we can add you to our *E-Mail Alert List*. This is how we get the word out about suspicious activities in the neighborhood and share crime-fighting tips with each other. Come join LORNA!



LORNA's 3rd Annual **Mega Yard Sale and Barbecue** is comin' up!

The date: **Saturday, June 30th**

The time: **8:00 am – 2:00 pm**

The place: **La Canada Way**



Residents are invited to sign up for a free small plot where they will be able to set up for the community yard sale. Festivities include music, contests, prizes, a bounce house, and, of course, seriously copious amounts of great food.

We will also have our brief annual meeting where residents will learn about LORNA's successes and meet the incoming leadership team.

This is traditionally our biggest event of the year and draws hundreds and hundreds of visitors. Come out and volunteer, sell your stuff, meet your neighbors, and have a ton of fun!

To volunteer, donate prizes, or RSVP for the yard sale, contact **Steve** at steve@mcshanesnursery.com or **970.4141**. See the flyer on page 4 for details.

REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY

Contributed by **KK Roberts, REALTOR®**

Our LORNA area is a great place to live! Email, call, or text me with any questions regarding the info below.

KK@KKRobertsRealty.com or **601.4091**

4 AVAILABLE LISTINGS	
186 Coleridge Drive	\$410,000
1252 Los Olivos Drive	\$350,000
1274 Los Olivos Drive	\$230,000
1253 Los Olivos Drive Unit 9	\$173,000
7 PENDING SALES [list price]	
322 Kipling Street	\$368,500
208 Chaucer Drive	\$230,000
1353 S Riker Street	\$225,000
1253 Los Olivos Drive Unit 28	\$179,000
1253 Los Olivos Drive Unit 4	\$170,000
345 Coleridge Drive Unit 88	\$149,000
1310 Primavera Street Unit 116	\$140,000
7 CLOSED SALES IN LAST 6 MONTHS	
1349 Primavera Street	\$340,000
1241 Dickens Drive	\$300,000
440 Kipling Street	\$280,000
434 Shelley Way	\$275,000
348 Kipling Street	\$240,000
1329 S Riker Street	\$225,000
1310 Primavera Street Unit 112	\$180,000

Data as of May 9, 2012; deemed reliable, not guaranteed

KIPLING BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

Contributed by **Kevin Low**

LORNA applied for and was awarded a \$250 federal community development grant for a beautification project in our neighborhood. Working with the City of Salinas, we identified the city right-of-way on Kipling Street along the agricultural fields as the site for our beautification project.

On April 14th, a team of a dozen neighbors erected five planter boxes and planted plants at each of the intersections along Kipling. We also trimmed back ivy, spread wildflower seeds on the more barren areas, and laid bark under some of the trees.



When you get a chance, please walk along Kipling and see what a beautiful job your neighbors did!

(Thanks to **Jon Brandt** for this photo of our LORNA Project Director at one of the Kipling beautification sites.)

A special **Thank You** goes out to the **Ferland** and **Bledsaw** families for their critical support on this project.

Are you disappointed that you weren't able to help out on this project? I have great news for you! Part 2 of the Kipling beautification project is scheduled for Saturday, June 16th, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Plan to meet along Kipling wearing comfortable shoes and gloves and armed with gardening tools.

Our goal is to trim back as much ivy as possible off the fences so that we can enjoy the breathtaking views of the fields and distant mountains. Even if you don't live on Kipling, we can all enjoy the beautiful scenery.

Contact **Kevin** at klow911@juno.com or **751.9654** for more information.

LORNA MEETINGS

Association meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of each month and are held at **Villa Serra**, unless otherwise notified. Fun and business begins at 7:30 pm.

In addition, LORNA members will host neighborhood gatherings at their homes or other tribal meeting places throughout the year. Dates and locations will be announced. All are welcome, so come and join your neighbors!



Sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to **Steve McShane** on the passing of his mother.



The Watch: Eyes and Ears of the Los Olivos–Riker Neighborhood

SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

Contributed by Kevin Low and Cynthia Shaffer

To further improve the safety and security of LORNA, we are looking to establish a network of **surveillance cameras**. The idea has been vetted through Salinas PD and a local company has provided a bid.

The primary goal is for the cameras to be a deterrent to crime. The secondary goal is that if someone foolishly decides to commit a crime, the cameras will help to identify the perpetrator and lead to prosecution with irrefutable recorded evidence.

LORNA is looking for stakeholders in this project. We already have a dozen stakeholders, so we know there is definite interest.

We are looking for people who:

- ▲ Are interested in volunteering their home as a location for cameras
- ▲ Already have a surveillance system they are willing to network with LORNA
- ▲ Would like to donate money for cameras

If you would like to help fund this innovative project, please visit www.lorneighborhood.com/membership and complete the membership form. When you specify “Cameras”, 100% of your donation will go toward this project.

For donations of:

- ▲ \$20 or more: receive a free LORNA membership
- ▲ \$100 or more: receive a free security yard sign
- ▲ \$500 or more: receive a lifetime LORNA membership to include the *Thank You* tokens every year

We cannot emphasize enough that your identity and contact information will be kept in strict confidence. Your security and anonymity is first and foremost. We will use the same criteria/system we use for the *E-Mail Alert List*.

Contact **Kevin** at klow911@juno.com or **751.9654** for questions or more information.



Thanks to the eyes and ears of our neighbors and Citizen Patrol, reports of graffiti and tagging in LORNA neighborhood zones have decreased. Residents have been promptly notifying the professional graffiti eradication team of Republic Services for expeditious removal of tagging.

LORNA leadership expresses our thanks to our neighbors and to Republic Services for their efforts, and encourages all residents to continue to be vigilant and proactive to help control this vandalism.

COMMUNITY ACADEMY

A team of LORNA residents is attending the current session of the Salinas PD **Community Academy**. By all accounts, the academy curriculum has been interesting, enlightening, fun, and dramatic.

The academy runs one night a week, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, for 12 consecutive weeks. During the program, attendees are exposed to the various aspects of Salinas PD. Topics include Internal Affairs, K-9, Field Operations, High-risk Tactics, Violence Suppression–Gangs, Narcotics, Laws of Arrest, Firearms, Investigations, Driving Under the Influence, and Crime Scene Evidence Processing.

If you are interested in participating, complete and submit the online application. To apply, you must live or work in Salinas, have no felony convictions, be at least 18 years of age, and make the commitment to attend every session.

Contact the Community Services Unit at **758-7247**, or visit www.salinaspd.com.

DAYLIGHT BURGLARY

A home in Los Olivos Village was recently burglarized during the day when no residents were present. There are many things we can do to minimize home burglaries, but in this situation the front door was demolished. A LORNA neighbor described the scene:

I was walking our dog about 500P when I saw an SPD officer driving in to one of our LOV inner streets—and he looked as if he was on a mission. I went to check out the situation and thank him for his service. It turns out he was there responding to a burglary that had occurred earlier in the day.

I was able to speak to the officer and the two women who rent the townhome that was burglarized. This unit is perpendicular to Primavera Street, the back patio is on the greenbelt down from the pool and tennis court area, and there are no direct-on facing townhomes across from them.

These are two working moms, each with a child under 8 years, and they have not resided in this unit for very long. The front door and jamb were damaged and all electronics and valuables that could be grabbed were taken. They do not have an alarm system or a dog that would bark if someone was at their door.

I told them about LORNA/LORNW, and the officer told them and me that the Neighborhood Watch needs as many as possible to get involved. When they said they thought their landlord might be a member, I stressed it is for RESIDENTS, not just owners. I told these gals, and the officer encouraged this, to call the non-emergency phone number at any time they feel ‘something isn’t right’, and to mention LORNA.





Neighborhood Fair

3RD ANNUAL MEGA YARD SALE AND BARBECUE

SATURDAY, JUNE 30TH

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

LA CANADA WAY

7:00–Setup ☺ 8:00–Yard Sale ☺ 10:00–Gardening Talk
11:00–Awards ☺ 12:00–Bicycle Tune-up and Safety



We need you to:

- 1. Donate items**
- 2. Bring food to share**
- 3. Volunteer with us**



Thanks to the leadership in Los Olivos–Riker Neighborhood Zone 3, we've set the date for our third annual **LORNA Neighborhood Fair**. This event includes a mega yard sale, barbecue, annual association presentation, and much more! We will have speakers at 10:00 and noon. At 11:00, we will have our brief annual meeting where residents will learn about LORNA's success in the last year and meet the incoming leadership team and local officials.

Residents are invited to RSVP for a free small plot where they will be able to set up for the community yard sale. We also welcome non-profits and any neighbors wishing to sell/display crafts and other items.

Festivities will include music, contests, prizes, face painting, a bounce house, and fabulous hot dogs, side dishes, and desserts. There will also be a raffle. We are looking for prizes! We can pick up any items you wish to donate to LORNA.



To sign up for a yard sale plot, volunteer, or donate prizes, contact **Steve McShane** at steve@mcsphanesnursery.com or **970.4141**.

Directions: Turn west onto Los Olivos Drive from Blanco. Take a right onto La Canada Way. The action is at the end of the street. If you get lost, call **Steve** on his cell phone at **970.4141**.