

THE ACORN



Arden Oaks Neighborhood Association Newsletter - ardenoaks.org

June 2022

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, July 4, 2022

Parade through the Neighborhood and Games at Windemere Park

Sunday, September 11, 2022

Neighborhood BBQ
Location TBD

Do you have any stories or information you'd like to share with your fellow Arden Oakers? Maybe you have a question for the neighborhood at large that you've been wondering about? Just send an email to <aona.president@gmail.com>, and we'd love to profile your family and/or print your letter in an upcoming issue of *The Acorn*.

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS!

Mike and Sharon D'Arelli

John and Christi DeBenedetti

Anthony Ingoglia and
Mia Bellante-Ingoglia

Perry and Janna Jones

Judith Kahler and Robert Taff

Adam Marszal

Bilal Matin

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors,

It's spring time in Arden Oaks again, roses are bursting on every block, the sweet scent of jasmine fills the air, and flocks of wild turkeys and their spring hatch of chicks are strolling through the neighborhood.

The AONA Annual Meeting of the Arden Oaks Neighborhood Association was held on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 by Zoom video conference. About 40 residents participated in the meeting, and we elected a slate of eight directors, who will be serving for the next two years. A representative from the County Department of Waste Management and Recycling gave an overview and slideshow on the upcoming change in the County's waste collection program. See the article below for more details of this program. The Annual Meeting concluded with a presentation on the security program by Tim Powell, the AONA security chairperson and by Deputy Pinkston, one of the sheriffs who regularly patrols our neighborhood and has been doing so for seven years. Deputy Pinkston said this neighborhood is usually extremely quiet.

We are delighted to once again have a full board of 15 volunteer residents to serve on the AONA board for the coming year. The Board is actively planning the events and programs for the year, including the Fourth of July parade and games, the fall barbecue, and the second annual holiday lighting and decoration contest. The current board members and officers are: Linden Beck, Kathleen Deeringer (Treasurer), Glen Fowler (Vice President), Stacey Friedman, Tom Harvey (Vice Treasurer), Joyce Hsiao (President), James Jack, Paul Legacki, Larry Nicholas, Molly Parnell, Tim Powell, Marcia Rodebaugh, Laurie Sopwith (Secretary), Eric Stiff, and Libby Wickland. Special thanks to Stacey Friedman, James Jack, Linden Beck, Eric Stiff, and former Board member Susan Post for contributing to the articles in this newsletter.

As always, if you have concerns or new ideas for the neighborhood, please send me an email. We look forward to seeing you and your family at the Fourth of July parade and games at Windemere Park!

Joyce Hsiao
AONA President
aona.president@gmail.com

SECURITY REPORT

The neighborhood impacts of increased crime and homelessness are being felt throughout our community. As our elected leaders continue to tackle these difficult problems, Arden Oaks is fortunate to have an engaged and dedicated team of Deputy Sheriffs serving our neighborhood's Off-Duty Patrol program.

Thanks to the generous support of our neighbors, the number of weekly patrol hours currently scheduled within our neighborhood is at an all-time high. Every dollar contributed to our security program is spent directly on patrol shifts and helps us ensure that there's an off-duty Deputy Sheriff in Arden Oaks seven days a week.

In the next month, you will receive the semi-annual voluntary contribution form to support our off-duty patrol program for the second half of 2022. If you are a regular contributor to the program, AONA is deeply grateful for your contribution to the safety of our neighborhood. If you haven't yet contributed, we hope you will please consider it. The off-duty patrol benefits our entire neighborhood, and every contribution allows us to increase the number of hours each week that we can schedule for our deputies. Contributors receive the extra benefit of having the deputies, upon request, check your property during every patrol shift while you are away.

SECURITY TIPS TO REMEMBER

If there's an emergency, **ALWAYS** dial 911. If there is an off-duty Sheriff's Deputy in the neighborhood, they will likely be the first to respond to the emergency dispatch.

If you're in a situation that isn't an emergency, but you still need to contact law enforcement, use the Sheriff's non-emergency phone number: 916-874-5115.

If you become victim to vandalism, mail or property theft, or illegal dumping the Sacramento Sheriff's Department asks that you file

a crime report online at:

https://www.sacsheriff.com/pages/crime_report.php

A crime report takes less than 5 minutes to submit. Since patrol decisions are based in large part on where crime is being reported within the County, submitting a report can help us ensure that the level of service Arden Oaks receives from both on-duty and off-duty patrols continues to enhance the safety of our neighborhood.

SECURITY BEST PRACTICES

Dependable security in Arden Oaks has always been a high priority. Surprisingly, good security often starts in your own home. Here are some good practices for home security that everyone can do, and these practices will improve overall security for the entire neighborhood:

Lock Doors and Windows. Surprisingly, one of the most common mistakes homeowners make is erroneously assuming their neighborhood is safe enough to leave doors and windows unlocked.

Trim Landscaping, Plantings. that grow to more than three feet high can provide adequate concealment for a burglar who is attempting to enter your home. Trim back all landscaping to ensure the front of your home is clearly visible from the road.

Keep the lights on. Your house should appear occupied at all times. Use timers to switch lights on and off when you're not at home. Better yet, invest in smart light bulbs that can be controlled remotely or scheduled to turn on at certain times of the day.

Purchase Home Security Services. Many insurance companies offer discounts and incentives to offset the cost, and home security video can assist in prosecuting the culprit, should valuables be stolen. Some inexpensive cameras are Ring Security Cameras, Arlo, Nest, and SimpliSafe. There are many more.

If you have a camera that picks up any street activity, consider registering it with the County at https://www.sacsheriff.com/pages/see_surveillance.php

ORGANICS COLLECTION STARTING IN JULY

Starting July 2022, the County waste management services will be collecting organic waste from your home every week. Organic waste consist of food scraps and food-soiled paper, together with your green waste (grass, leaves, yard clippings, and pruning). All of this waste will go into the same bin, the Organics cart, which is now the green waste cart but soon to be renamed the Organics cart. The Organics cart, along with your garbage cart, will be picked up every week. Recycling will continue to be collected every other week.

So what exactly will go into the Organics waste cart? Food scraps include the vegetable and fruit peels, seeds, and trimmings; table scraps (including uneaten food, meat, and bones); egg shells and coffee grounds; and moldy and rotting food. Food-soiled paper include dirty paper towels and napkins, dirty paper plates, greasy pizza boxes, and dirty paper lunch bags. This waste can go directly into the Organic waste cart, or if you prefer, it can be first placed in a brown paper bag, or a compostable bag before going into the bin. These food waste materials will now go into the same bin as your yard clipping, grass, and leaves. And please, no plastic bags in the Organics cart.

The following items should NOT go into the Organics cart: no plastic, glass, or metal of any kind. This includes materials like styrofoam, take-out containers, utensils, twist ties, and rubber bands. Pet waste does not go in the Organics cart either. All of these items should instead be disposed of in the Garbage bin, which will continue to be collected weekly.

Let's work together as a neighborhood and support the County's organic waste program. Instead of going to a landfill, these waste materials will be sent to a composting facility where it will be made into compost, which can then be used as a soil amendment. Working together we can reduce the need for landfill space and at the same time slow down the production of greenhouse gasses that cause climate change. For more information, go to the website SacGreenTeam.com. There is also a SacGreenTeam app which may be downloaded and will give you information regarding your weekly household services.



A HISTORY OF ARDEN OAKS

The first residents of what is now Arden Oaks were the Nisenan (also called the Southern Maidu), an indigenous people of California who inhabited the Yuba River and American River watersheds. The area now known as Arden Arcade was a small part of a Mexican land grant that was deeded to John Sutter, a Swiss immigrant who founded the first inland settlement in Northern California and built his renowned Sutter's Fort in 1839.

Sutter negotiated the land grant from the Mexican governor Manuel Micheltoarena, and in 1844, Sutter gave Eliab Grimes 44,000 acres of the land grant, an area that encompassed about eight miles north of and along the American River. Grimes called it Rancho Del Paso ("Ranch of the Pass") because it was on the road to the pass of the American River through the Sierra. Grimes died in 1848, and left the land to his nephew Hiram Grimes. When California became part of the United States with the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the treaty provided that the land grants would be honored. Grimes sold the land to San Francisco trader Samuel Norris in 1852, who in turn, then sold it to James Ben Ali Haggin in 1862.

From 1862 to 1905, Haggin was famous for breeding race horses on this land, including the winner of the 12th Kentucky Derby. He built a railroad spur here to ship his horses all over the world, but mostly he sent the horses to Kentucky. Del Paso Country Club was developed in 1919 from a portion of this ranch. In 1905, Orlando Robertson bought the Rancho Del Paso for \$1.5 million for his Sacramento Colonization Company.

Orlando Robertson was a land speculator who came from Arden Hills, Minnesota, which is most likely where the name "Arden" originated. Robertson laid out the streets and developed large tracts of land for sale throughout the area we now know as "Arden Arcade." He chose street names that reflected the inventors of the period: Watt, Edison, Howe, Bell, etc. He advertised the sale of the tracts as an excellent area for farming, with its fertile soils and reliable water supply. At one time, this was one of the major hop growing regions of the world.

The horse breeding history of the area attracted Steve Williams, a developer, horseman, and pilot, who was looking for land to develop into a neighborhood with an appeal to those who loved the open spaces and desired room for horses. He and his brother Frank "Squeaky" Williams were responsible for developing the 435 acres that we know today as Arden Oaks. His dream was to develop estate-sized lots with horse trails in and around the neighborhood. On August 16, 1945 this dream was realized with the recording of the 60-lot Arden Oaks, Unit 1, which featured lots ranging from 0.8 of an acre to over 3 acres that at the time sold from \$2,800 to \$9,000.



The above paragraphs are excerpted from an article prepared by Joyce Hsiao and Eric Stiff in April 2022. For the full article, please go to ardenoaks.org

ARDEN OAKS NPA: SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q: If I want to do some work on my property, do I have to comply with the Arden Oaks Neighborhood Preservation Area (NPA) Ordinance or with the Sacramento Zoning Code?

A: The short answer is that you need to comply with both. The Arden Oaks NPA is a part of the Zoning Code of Sacramento County, but it provides development standards specific to Arden Oaks that override any less restrictive standards that are stated elsewhere in the Zoning Code. Any site improvements to your property must also comply with other applicable County Codes, such as those related to building and grading permits.

Q: What does the AONA do to enforce the NPA?

A: The AONA does not enforce the NPA. The County is responsible for enforcement of the NPA and all other requirements of its Zoning Code. The AONA bylaws, however, specify that there be a NPA committee responsible for, among other things: (i) monitoring development and building activity in the neighborhood for compliance with the NPA; (ii) reviewing variance requests of neighbors and making a recommendation for approval or denial of the variance; and (iii) conducting ongoing efforts to make property owners in the neighborhood aware of the NPA.

The AONA Board has worked very hard, for several decades, to seek objective, equal, and consistent compliance with the Arden Oaks NPA and County Zoning Code throughout the neighborhood. We have tried to keep the neighbors informed of the applicable development standards and regulations, including posting the NPA on our website, distributing the NPA to all new neighbors moving into Arden Oaks, and writing articles in The Acorn explaining various provisions. Nevertheless, there are still occasional violations of the NPA or Zoning Code. Most often, the violations are not intentional but, instead, are due to residents who aren't aware of the applicable NPA or Zoning Code requirements. When asked, the Board's NPA committee tries to assist residents when there is uncertainty in the interpretation of how the regulations apply to a particular situation. The Board will often go directly to County staff for clarification and resolution of issues that arise, to the extent possible. Ultimately, it is the County who has the sole jurisdiction, control, and authority to take action and enforce the NPA and Zoning Code.

Q: My next door neighbor is doing some construction that I am concerned is in violation of the NPA. How can the AONA Board help me?

A: If you have a concern about a violation of the NPA or Zoning Code, you (or any resident) can report your concern directly to the County. There is no need to alert AONA, since it is only the County that can determine if a violation has occurred and corrective action is needed, and otherwise enforce the NPA and Zoning Code.

Occasionally, the Board or NPA committee receives complaints from neighbors about potential violations of the NPA and/or Zoning Code. The NPA committee tries to respond to all complaints it receives, including assessing whether or not there is an actual issue. If there appears to be a legitimate potential violation of the NPA and/or Zoning Code, the Board will generally forward the complaint or potential issue to the County for its investigation and determination.

As stated above, only the County can take action, if the County determines any action is warranted. We understand that when an alleged violation is reported to the County, the County conducts its own investigation, but takes no action unless the County determines a violation has occurred. The County does not assess a fine or take action unless the resident, after being notified, does not comply with the County's requested actions to correct the issue.

The volunteers who serve on the Board and NPA Committee understand that most violations are inadvertent, and reporting a violation is never personal against the neighbor that potentially violated the Zoning Code. Our goal is for the County to interpret and apply the NPA and Zoning Code in an objective and consistent manner for the benefit of all residents of our neighborhood.

Q: I don't have time to volunteer to join the AONA Board, but is there anything I can do to help preserve and protect the character of Arden Oaks?

A: Yes, all of us as neighbors can help each other to protect our neighborhood. In the same way we all work together to provide a security program for the entire neighborhood, we can work together by learning more about our neighborhood and understanding the benefits of the NPA. Check out the Arden Oaks website <ardenoaks.org> and read about the history of Arden Oaks, learn about the birds that live right here in our neighborhood, and before doing any work on your property, review the NPA. Most importantly, get to know your neighbors, because after all, neighbors are the most important part of any neighborhood.

OAKS APPLE

Did you ever wonder about that round ball hanging from the branch of your oak tree? You might have worried it was something that dropped from outer space, or a dreaded pest that required extermination. Well, worry no more. That is an oak gall. It poses no risk to your tree, but houses a tiny wasp larva that depends on the tree to survive.

If you are lucky enough to find one of these galls that has no escape holes on its surface, it provides an instant research project for your budding scientist.

Carefully cut it in half with a sharp knife and you will discover the tiny, squirming larva of a Cynipid wasp. These tiny wasps lay their eggs on the leaves or twigs of a valley oak, and those eggs produce a larva that forms inside the gall, and cause it to eventually resemble a small, brown apple. The gall is both a safe-haven and a food source for the larva. When mature, usually in late spring, the little wasp chews a hole in the gall and escapes. And don't worry, these little guys are harmless and don't sting.

Each species of wasp produces a particular size and shape of gall. The oak apple is a stem gall, while others form on the undersides of the leaves. The latter might be shaped like little chocolate kisses, tiny pink sea urchins or, my favorites, tiny pinhead-sized jumping oak galls that jump and click when they land on hot pavement.

These galls are just a mere microcosm of the rich and complex ecosystem that thrives on our majestic oaks.

Susan Post
Sacramento UC Master Gardener

GO PLAY IN THE PARK

Did you know that Park use reduces stress, and increases resilience?

According to a University of California, Los Angeles study, playing in the park is a great way to release endorphins. With an annual park pass from Sacramento County, pass holders receive free daily entry into all our regional parks and a dozens or so access points along the American River Parkway. You can fish, swim, kayak, or run along the paved Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail or head out to the multi-use dirt trails which meander near Discovery Park, Nimbus Fish Hatchery, and the Folsom Lake recreation area. Drive right into a park without having to stop at the kiosks or feed entrance fees to a ranger. Park passes are \$60 per vehicle with significant discounts for seniors, veterans and low income families. Purchase online at <https://arpf.org/visit/>

EMERGENCY ALERT TEXTS CAN KEEP YOU INFORMED

Wireless emergency alerts are text messages sent to your phone in the event of an emergency by public safety officials. These messages can alert you to imminent dangers like wildfires and weather disruptions; mandatory evacuations, national emergencies, and even missing children. Alerts are no more than 90 characters and include the following information: what is happening, who is affected, and what action to take. Visit <http://www.calalerts.org/> to learn more.



ARDEN OAKS FOURTH OF JULY PARADE AND GAMES!

Calling all fun-loving celebrants to join us for the annual Fourth of July parade and games, the most popular event of the neighborhood.

Bring your bikes, scooters, horses, dogs — anything on wheels or legs — and decorate them in red, white, and blue.

Parade forms on Rockwood, between Maple Glen and Ladino where decorating begins at 9:30 a.m. Free balloons, flags, and other regalia.

Parade starts at 10 a.m., winds through the neighborhood, with a root beer stop on Random Lane, and ends at Windemere Park.

Meet us at the park at 10:30 a.m. for sack races, water balloon toss, popsicles, watermelon, and more, including live music by the Extra Innings Band.

Don't miss out on this neighborhood tradition that began over fifty years ago!

