

THE ACORN



Arden Oaks Neighborhood Association Newsletter - ardenoaks.org

Spring 2025

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

AONA Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 11th, 7 p.m.
Arden Park Community Center
1000 La Sierra Drive

4th of July Parade and Games at Windemere Park

Friday, July 4th, 10 a.m. to noon

Neighborhood BBQ

TBD Sunday in September
TBD Arden Oaks residence

AONA 2025 All-Volunteer Board of Directors

Glen Fowler, President
Joyce Hsiao, Vice President
Kathleen Deeringer, Treasurer
Laurie Sopwith, Secretary
Linden Beck
Debbie Cunningham
Sharon D'Arelli
Tom Harvey
James Jack
Maggie Marszal
Molly Parnell
Marcia Rodebaugh
Larry Smith
Eric Stiff
Libby Wickland

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors,

Most mornings my wife and I walk our two dogs through the neighborhood, partly for the dogs, but admittedly it's more for our benefit. Breathing the fresh air and soaking in the quiet of the morning sets our perspectives for the day. We're fortunate to live in a neighborhood where we can meander safely through the streets and neighbors courteously greet each other with a "hello" or wave. That friendliness reflects our cohesive and caring community.

As President of the Arden Oaks Neighborhood Association (AONA) Board of Directors, I take seriously the goals of the association. Among those goals are to further the personal safety and home security of all our residents. I'm pleased with the Board's—and particularly, the Security Committee's—recent efforts to bolster security patrol presence in our neighborhood. I commend the Board for thinking out-of-the-box and adopting a hybrid patrol model that supplements the off-duty Sacramento County Sheriff's deputies with private security personnel. This new approach optimizes patrol coverage within our budget and positions us to accommodate for seasonal variations.

Another AONA Board goal is to foster a sense of community within Arden Oaks. I'm very proud of our Board's sustained commitment to conducting and improving upon the four annual AONA-sponsored events: the Annual Meeting, the 4th of July Parade and Games, the Neighborhood BBQ, and the Holiday Lighting Contest.

Over 50 neighbors participated in our recent 2025 Annual Meeting; a true reflection of our residents' involvement and their desire to ensure our neighborhood is at its best. The meeting attendees heard firsthand the status of the Security Program from Lt. Rich Merideth (Sacramento County Sheriff's Office) and Aaron Zeff (CEO of Elite One Protection), as well as insights from Supervisor Rich Desmond regarding our roads, local development, and homelessness concerns. See the article in this issue of The Acorn to learn more about Supervisor Desmond's presentation.

Spring has sprung in Arden Oaks! Enjoy the longer days and admire the flowering flora throughout our beautiful neighborhood.

Glen Fowler
AONA President
aona.president@gmail.com

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

(New homeowners in Arden Oaks since October 2024)

Gary & Erin Grinberg

Scott & Janelle Wetch

SECURITY REPORT

We are pleased to inform everyone that the security reports for the past few months have been, frankly, boring—which is the best kind of security report! There have been no reports of suspicious activity, major crime, or burglary. Only minor incidents were reported, including a disabled postal truck, and on a few occasions, a loitering non-resident who was escorted out of the neighborhood.

Since December, we have maintained steady security patrol coverage, with the combined services of the off-duty deputies from the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office and staff from Elite One Protection, our contracted private security firm. Security patrols have averaged about five hours daily, seven days a week.

During patrol shifts, the deputies or private security staff drive all the streets in Arden Oaks between Watt and Eastern Avenues. They also walk the perimeter of Windemere Park and check the playground area.

Sheriff deputies respond to resident calls, conduct vacation checks of homes requesting those services (about five per day), and move conspicuously placed parcels to safer locations as needed. They also monitor traffic violations and activities at any vacant homes and construction sites.

The success of the Security Program is entirely based on your contributions. The list at the end of this newsletter denotes the over 200 neighbors who have already submitted their 2025 program contributions.

REMINDERS

All this information may be found under the Security tab at *ArdenOaks.org* including a comprehensive list of safety tips you can implement to protect yourself, your neighbors, and your property.

- **Call 911 for Emergencies.** If an off-duty sheriff deputy is patrolling Arden Oaks at the time of your call, the call will be assigned to them. Otherwise, an on-duty deputy will respond.
- **Report Suspicious Activity or Concerns.** Call the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office non-emergency line at **916- 874-5115** to make a report.
- **Crime Reporting.** Victims of vandalism, mail or property theft, or illegal dumping, should file an online crime report at sacsheriff.com/pages/crime_report.php. The report takes less than five minutes to submit, and reporting crimes helps ensure adequate sheriff patrols in Arden Oaks, both on- and off-duty.
- **Request Vacation Monitoring.** If you plan to be away for an extended period, the off-duty sheriff can monitor your property during their patrols. To request this service, email <AO4@sacsheriff.com> with your name, address, contact details, dates of absence, and any access instructions (e.g., gate codes). You can also call or text 916-612-9410, the dedicated Arden Oaks line, and provide the same information.
- **Contact Patrolling Off-duty Sheriff Deputy.** Call or text **916-612-9410** to inform them of any neighborhood concerns or issues.

COUNTY SUPERVISOR RICH DESMOND FEATURED AT ANNUAL MEETING

For the second consecutive year, Supervisor Rich Desmond served as our guest speaker at the AONA Annual Meeting on March 11, 2025. Supervisor Desmond is now in his fifth year of serving as the representative for Sacramento County District 3, which encompasses large areas of urban unincorporated portions of the county, including Arden Oaks. As a lifelong resident of Carmichael, Supervisor Desmond has a strong connection to local neighborhoods and is especially appreciative of their respective neighborhood associations like AONA. He believes the members are more involved and knowledgeable of community issues.



Desmond addressed several major neighborhood concerns, including homelessness, potholes, the Arden Way Complete Streets Project, and abandoned buildings. The county is continuing its approach to the growing homelessness issue by seeking to increase capacity by adding both shelter space and affordable housing. There are two projects focusing on this issue: a shelter space project in the north area off Watt Avenue, near Winona and Myrtle Avenues, which will serve 350 people; and an affordable housing project at the former Residence Inn on Howe Avenue. Homelessness issues account for approximately 80% of the supervisor's responsibilities.

Regarding potholes, the county has a \$1.5 billion maintenance backlog, but its dedicated funding is only \$30 million per year. The county requires \$60 to \$70 million just to maintain the roads and will need to receive grant money to address the logjam. Desmond recommends reporting potholes to the county by calling 311 or by using the 311 Sac County app, which can be downloaded from the Sacramento County website (311.saccounty.gov). The county's Department of Transportation will fix reported potholes, and if your vehicle incurs damage from a road pothole, there is a claims process available to you.

The Arden Way Complete Streets Project is an \$80 million project that is currently underway. Phase 1, which is happening now, includes renovating Arden Way between Watt and Morse Avenues.

Supervisor Desmond believes potential exists to increase code enforcement at abandoned buildings or storefronts, where violations are present, such as Macy's and Savings Center along Watt Avenue. He stated that the Savings Center has been approved for a mini storage business, with a suitable exterior design, but he is firm on not allowing another mini storage proposal at the vacant Macy's building unless developers agree to use the entire property in a way that benefits the community. Desmond informed us that it is difficult to attract development for this area.

To stay abreast of the latest District 3 news, sign up to receive Supervisor Desmond's monthly electronic newsletter at bos.saccounty.gov/District3/Pages/default.aspx.

2024 HOLIDAY LIGHTING CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to Maggie and Adam Marszal for winning Best in Show in the latest Arden Oaks Holiday Lighting Contest! The Marszals received the highest score from the 32 participating judges—all of whom reside in Arden Oaks and included several kids under the age of 18. As usual, the competition was tight, with several houses landing just a few points shy of the top prize. Random Lane and Rockwood Drive had the most winning homes with three each, while homes on Riding Club Lane, Cathay Way, Maple Glen, and



Rolling Hills rounded out the top ten. Families filling the top ten slots were: Marszal, Morrison, Best, Wahnwideler, Wickland, Wheeler, Marks, Staines, Holladay, and Wilson. All winners and finalists received an elegant lawn sign displaying their win and a gift certificate to Emigh Hardware.

Thank you to all who participated in the contest, including all the judges. Thanks also goes to those who beautifully decorated and illuminated their homes while not officially entering the contest. They certainly brightened the neighborhood and may have been contenders for a prize if they had entered!

We look forward to continuing this tradition each

holiday season. Remember, every home in the neighborhood is eligible to enter, and anyone living in Arden Oaks can be a judge, regardless of age. We especially welcome children under the age of 18 to be judges.

ENJOYING THE QUIET IN ARDEN OAKS

After a long day at work, whether in the office, at home, or at the corner Starbucks, nothing beats coming home to the peace and tranquility of Arden Oaks. We are incredibly fortunate to live in such a verdant and quiet neighborhood, removed from the noise and hubbub of the surrounding traffic and city life. Here in Arden Oaks, we can hear the chirping finches and towhees during the day, and the hooting of screech owls at night.

An integral aspect of this peaceful atmosphere is the mutual respect for neighbors in keeping unnecessary and offensive sound levels to a minimum. Let us all commit to minimizing use of leaf blowers, loud music, and other excessively noisy activities. But when these activities are necessary, please try to limit them to weekdays during standard work hours to minimize interference with the majority's common leisure time. Your neighbors will appreciate for your contribution to maintaining Arden Oaks' peaceful environment.

PROTECT YOUR HOME: FIRE SAFETY AND INSURANCE PREPAREDNESS

The recent wildfires in California have left many homeowners concerned about their own exposure to a fire. Looking around our beautiful neighborhood, there are many lush trees, wood shake roofs, and overgrown vegetation, amounting to an abundance of fuel for fires, especially as temperatures increase with the coming months. With over 11,000 homes and structures lost in the recent Southern California fires, it is evident that wildfire risk is a serious concern. Fortunately, there are proactive measures that can be taken to reduce your home's exposure to fire and enhance its resilience, while ensuring adequate insurance coverage.

A highly effective method to protect your home against wildfire is by adhering to the Safer from Wildfires framework, developed by the California Department of Insurance (insurance.ca.gov). This approach involves key measures such as installing ember-resistant vents, upgrading roofs and windows to fire-resistant materials, and maintaining defensible space by clearing vegetation and debris from your property. These improvements can significantly reduce the likelihood of a home igniting during a wildfire.

Additionally, the Wildfire Prepared (wildfireprepared.org) certification from the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety provides a clear, science-based standard for homeowners wanting to improve their property's wildfire resilience. This program assesses critical areas, such as roofing, decks, and landscaping, and provides a pathway to certification that may help you secure better insurance coverage. Some insurers even offer discounts for homes that meet wildfire-resistant standards.

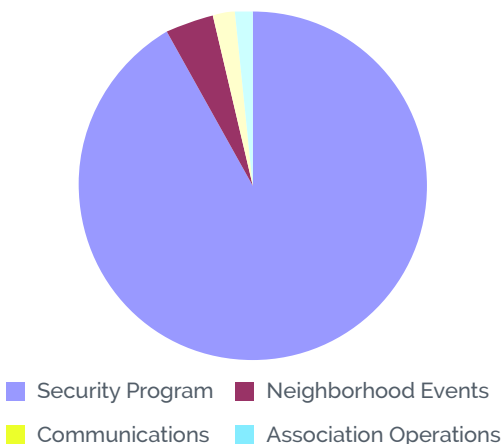
Now is the time to assess your home's fire risk and act. Review your homeowner's insurance policy to ensure you have adequate coverage for wildfire damage, and consider making the necessary upgrades to protect your property. By adopting proven wildfire mitigation strategies, we can create a safer community and have greater peace of mind.

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

In 2024, AONA had about \$127,000 in total expenses. Approximately 92% of the funds were allocated to the Security Program, with a significant portion going to the off-duty sheriff patrols and the private security firm that started in November. This expense is paid entirely by the Security Program contributions from Arden Oaks residents and the participants from the neighboring areas to the east and west.

The annual neighborhood events totaled around 5% of expenditures; communications (The Acorn newsletters, signage, and website) comprised just under 2%, and association operations (i.e., insurance, accounting, internet fees, etc.) accounted for the remaining expense, under 2%. These non-security expenses are paid for entirely with the membership fees. As residents were previously notified, AONA determined that begin-

Breakdown of AONA 2024 Expenses



ning in 2024, it was necessary to raise the annual membership dues from \$50 to \$65, to cover the rising costs of these expenses. We will be continuing the annual rate of \$65 per household in 2025.

Thanks to your contributions, our neighborhood has enjoyed a long history of programs and activities in a safe and friendly environment, and 2025 promises to bring more of the same.

Equally as is the countless hours of their time and expertise the AONA Board members have donated to make all these programs and events happen. The neighborhood is indebted to this volunteer effort the AONA Board members continue to devote. Thanks to all AONA Board members — past, present, and future — for your invaluable contributions.

AONA MEMBERSHIP AND SECURITY CONTRIBUTIONS The neighborhood is beholden to the 207 households listed below that have already (as of March 20th) contributed to the membership and/or security programs for 2025.

Our apologies if your name is not listed and you have already mailed your check. We promise to include your name in the fall issue of *The Acorn*. If you have yet to send your contribution for either program, there's still plenty of time. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE ON THIS LIST as each contribution helps!

* Membership Program contribution; ^Security Program contribution; Bold additional contribution above the requested \$65 for membership and \$250 for security.

Jesse & Sallie
Debbie & Mark
AKT Development*^
Bruce & Lori
Pat & Gail
Gus & Bronya
Pauline & Amit
William & Laurie
Doug & Anne
Edward & Linden
Blake & Linda
Gary & Martha
Cliff & Debbie
Philip & Michelle
Scott & Tracy
Brandon & Catherine
Jason
Larry & Marjorie
Mark & Priya
Jack & Anne-Marie
Daniel
Tim & Laurel
Tony & Lydia
Christopher & Kim
Michael & Lynda
Steve & Donna
Trevor & Courtney
Cindy & Chris
John & Celeste
Sam & Deborah
Matt & Linden
Matthew & Kaoru
Mike & Sharon
John & Christi
Robert & Margaret
Jim & Kathleen
Maryanne Giokas & John
Chrysa & George
Michele
Doug & Pam
Tom & Jackie
Rosemary

Greg & Danae
Rowena & Kenneth
Michael & Linda
Jim & Ann
Susan Summers & David
Glen & Alicia
Mollie
David & Stacey
Carolyn Duty & Patricia
Larry & Laurie
Dave & Erla
Hedy
Greg & Linda
Thomas & Joanne
Jeff & Laurie
Gary & Erin
Temme & Toyelle
Pete
Brian & Victoria
Tom & Nancy
Geoffrey Brewer & Russ

Adams*^
Aizenberg*^

Anapolsky^
Anderson*
Bagatelos^
Banerjee*^
Barron*^
Bayless*^
Beck*^
Bender*^
Benvenuti*^
Berg*^
Bernstein*^
Best*^
Bettar*^
Bollinger*^
Booth*^
Brink*^
Bruner*^
Brunner^
Cahill*^
Cameron*^
Campbell*^
Campos^
Carlson*^
Chase*^
Cheney*^
Chin*^
Cunningham*^
Cunningham*^
Cutshall*^
D'Arelli*^
DeBenedetti*^
DeCicco*^
Deeringer*^
Demas*^
Demos*^
Ehlert*^
Doug & Pam
Eres*^
Erlewine*^
Evolve*^
Evrigenis*^
Fahn*^
Fazio^
Fish*^
Forbess*^
Fowler*^
Freeman*^
Friedman*^
Geyer*^
Goldman*^
Goller*^
Govenar*^
Grant*^
Grant*^
Gregg*^
Grinberg*^
Hagen*^
Halimi*^
Hanly*^
Harvey*^
Hayden*^

Taryn Fischer & Zachary
Kristine Kjellsson & Tom
Bryce & Tiffany
Anthony & Mia Bellante
Antoinette
Concetta
James & Crystal
Mark & Kristine
Bruce & Elizabeth
Judith & Robert Taff
Ara & Viva
Liz Gosnell & Nancy
Cole & Wendy
Natalie Lowe & Dennis
Steve & Linda
Joseph & Sheri
Nancy
Chris Smith & Vivian
Ram & Sita
Sheron
Luko & Lisa
Scott & Linda
Susan & Richard
David & Jennifer
Paul & Paula
David & Rita
Michael & Irina
Josh Mastronarde & Kelly
William
J. Tim
W'en-pen & Yang-ching
Alex & Stacy
Nick & Chris
Kimarie
Daniel Whisman & Brenda
Michael & Maxine
David & Colleen
Adam
Ann & Jason Fass
Lorraine
Courtney
Robert & Gail
Richard & Nancy
Steve & Marcy
Anthony & Courtney Chandler
Terry & Dave
Helen
Paul & Kay
Bob & Jerianne
Larry & Patty
Sally
Daniel & Lynne
Robert & Jennifer
John
Jacob & Molly
Jane
Ravi & Tiffany
Valerie & Joel
John C.
Gary
Manny Alvarez & Erica
Amy George & Femi
Patty & Shannon Moody
David & Susan

Heinzer*^
Hoffart*^
Holladay*^
Ingoglia*^
Irwin*^
Isola*^
Jack*^
Johnson*^
Jones*^
Kahler*^
Karamanoukian*^
Kibbey*^
Klokkevold*^
Knoll*^
Koire*^
Kozina*^
Kraus*^
Kwan*^
Lalchandani*^
Landis*^
Laptalo*^
Lasher*^
Lazansky*^
Leatherby*^
Legacki*^
Lehman*^
Leschinski^
Lewellen*^
Lewis^
Lewis*^
Liu*^
Locke*^
Lowe*^
Lyon*^
Main*^
Mantell*^
Marks*^
Marszal*^
Marszal*^
McGee*^
McHarg*^
McMichael*^
Miller*^
Mills*^
Montero*^
Moore*^
Moorefield^
Morrison*^
Naify*^
Nicholas*^
Nichols*^
Nix*^
Paganelli*
Pappas*^
Parnell*^
Parsons*^
Patel*^
Pearlman*^
Perlegos*^
Perry*^
Pham*^
Phillip*^
Philips*^
Post*^

Matthew & Erin
Tatia Wagner & Tim
Praveen & Nalini
Brian Pifferini & Brian
Vincent & Ellen
Pernell & Myla
Lor & Susannah
Bkaskara & Sharan
Anita
Ed & Jessica
Mark & Marcia
Steve & Cheryl
Robert & Alisa
Adham & Cheryl Lyles
William & Elaine
Kuppe & Shaku
Jenniffer
Carl
Tim & Dana
Larry
Budmir & Sherri
Laurie Borges
Christiane & Stuart
Katerina Christiansen & Warrick
Joyce Hsiao & Bob
Eric & Louisa
Predrag
Michael & Lindsay
Phil
Worth & Janet
Marc & Carole
Sherif & Sumaya
Cas & Jakki
Derek & Jee
Chris & Lynda
Tim & Kristine
Cynthia
Jerry & Joyce
Peter & Jelena
Vinod & Archana
Julie Steiner & Tony
Billy & Patty Cheong
Don
Heidi
Christopher & Staria
Thomas Huang & Paul
Scott & Janelle
Jane
Shirley
Jonathan
Trey & Kelli
Lori
Josh & Libby
Robert & Susan
Franklin & Sandra
Karun
Pandurango & Sudha

Post*^
Powell*^
Prasad^
Putler*^
Quilici*^
Ramos*^
Randall*^
Reddy*^
Ricci*^
Rincon*^
Rodebaugh*^
Rossiter*^
Sakowitz*^
Sbeih*^
Schaedler*^
Shankar*^
Shaw*^
Shin*^
Sloan*^
Smith*^
Sokolovich*^
Sopwith*^
Spoto*^
Staines*^
Stanley*^
Stiff*^
Stojakovic*^
Stovall*^
Stubblefield*^
Summers*^
Sussman*^
Sweha*^
Szymanowski*^
Takehara*^
Taylor*^
Taylor*^
Teixeira^
Thompson*^
Tiemann*^
Trivedi*^
Tsai*^
Tsoi*^
Turner*^
Wagner*^
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Wansik*^
Wetch*^
Wheaton*^
Wheeler*^
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Wheeler*^
White*^
Wickland*^
Wood*^
Yee*^
Yee*^
Yenumula*^

EASTSIDE

Hamed & Katherine
Peter & Joan
Jesse & Doris
Virginia & Albert
Dylan & Lyria
Scott & Chrissy
James & Claudine
Jeremy & Anna

Benouar^
Dangermond^
Flores^
Flynn^
Hojnacki^
Hundahl^
Irwin^
Juern^

Machi & Janice
Richard & Mary
Michael & Helen
Craig
Mike & Krista
Kim
Amy Flores & Patrick
Walter

Kuwabara^
Lawrence^
Lawson^
Locke^
Stassi^
Swanson^
Wilson^
Zacharias^

WESTSIDE

Ann Ngo & Anthony
Bruce & Cathy
Ken & Kathy
Michael & Andrea
Ray & Nancy
Bruce & Cherene

Basco^
Levering^
Morton^
Ogden^
Thompson^
Waltert^



Mowgli



Luke



Lulu



Oliver and Cooper



Shelby



Gus



Balboa



Zanna



Junior



Gertie



Tuck, Sid and Monkey



Sam and Maggie



Roscoe and Molly



Finn



Suzy



Luna

GALLERY OF ARDEN OAKS' DOGS

To see these photos in color, go to our website ArdenOaks.org, under the Resident Information tab, and click on the Acorn Newsletters, Spring 2025.