



## Summer 2017 Newsletter

### Our Elmhurst Trees

Life in the summer would be unbearable without our wonderful tree canopy. A shout out to our neighbors who are volunteers with STEP (Save the Elms Project)! They have been monitoring our elm trees, and reporting their findings to the city through the STEP project. More volunteers are needed so that we can cover all the elms in our neighborhood. To become a STEP volunteer, contact the Sacramento Tree Foundation ([www.sactree.com/STEP](http://www.sactree.com/STEP)).



STEP volunteers reported 6 disturbingly ragged-looking elms on the T Street parkway between 39th and 42nd. The city arborist inspected the trees, as well as 3 more reported in the neighborhood (near 48th, 51st and 2nd Ave.), and determined that the dead foliage was due to extensive squirrel damage and not Dutch elm disease. (Besides chewing off small branches, squirrels can “girdle” a branch by chewing all around it and the part further from the tree will die.)

*(continued on page 2)*

### S St. Development Proposal

On July 26, about 25 Elmhurst residents attended a meeting with the Evergreen Company, to get updates and address concerns about Evergreen’s development of the old ATT building and parking lot on Stockton and S Streets. Demolition on the ATT building may start this summer for 214 apartment units and ground floor retail facing T St. (approved in 2015). Plans call for entrances off Stockton and S & 37<sup>th</sup>.

The parking lot was approved for 21 single-family houses in 2015. In May this year, the developer applied to the City to instead build 41 townhouses. The City is now reviewing the plans; the proposal will likely be by the Planning Commission this fall.

**Sound Wall.** Neither the approved 2015 plans nor the current application include a sound wall as it would be on Caltrans’ property. Currently, Caltrans does not have the funding for it to be built.

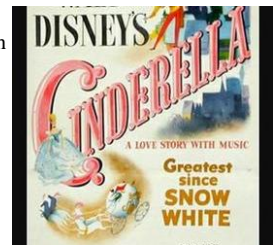
**Freeway noise.** Residents expressed concern that the 5 new proposed driveways between the buildings on S St. could create a tunnel without the sound wall. Plans show trees planted in those spaces to help absorb sound until the sound wall is built. *(continued on page 2)*

### What’s Up Elmhurst?

**The Elmhurst Neighborhood Association (ENA)** board meets on Monday, August 14. Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 6:30pm at the Coloma Center in the Gold Run Rm. Residents are encouraged to attend to bring their concerns and get involved! Fall Board meeting dates are: 9/11; 10/9; 11/13; 12/11.

### Daisy's Last Movie Night of the Summer:

**Cinderella.** Join U Street neighbors on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 4933 U St. The party starts at 8pm, movie at 8:30pm. Please bring a chair or blanket. Vegan snacks and drinks will be provided - or bring your own vegan only snacks! 916- 835-5027



**Traffic Calming.** The ENA Traffic Calming Committee is continuing to press for additional stop signs and speed bumps to slow traffic and reduce the use of V, 51<sup>st</sup>, and T Streets as thoroughfares. Get involved, contact Rick Henry at [ovejasave.henry@gmail.com](mailto:ovejasave.henry@gmail.com)

**Parents group.** Parents who want to connect with other Elmhurst parents can do so through the Elmhurst Parents Facebook page:

**Safety in our Neighborhood.** Elmhurst neighbors discussed crime and safety in Elmhurst at the August 1 National Night Out.

What to do: Know your neighbors! Some streets have volunteers who make sure to meet all new neighbors and share phone numbers so neighbors can watch out for each other. For more info, email [vp@elmhurstna.com](mailto:vp@elmhurstna.com).

To report a crime in process, call 9-11, for non-emergency calls: (916) 264-5471.

To let your neighbors know about neighborhood crime & safety issues, you can also post to Next Door.

**Keeping our Pets Safe.** Know the pets in your neighborhood. If you see a loose dog that is friendly, call the number on the dog’s tag, post on Next Door, and/or call the SPCA 916-383-7387. If you see a loose dog that is skittish or aggressive, call 9-11.

## Are you getting the Elmhurst Bulletin?

To help promote better communication among our neighbors, the ENA Board has started emailing the *Elmhurst Bulletin* on events, meetings and neighborhood concerns. If you are not already receiving these updates, you can subscribe by completing the form at the Cottage Mart or emailing [enaboard@elmhurstna.com](mailto:enaboard@elmhurstna.com).

You can receive the periodic printed newsletter via email, read it online on the ENA website ([www.elmhurstna.com](http://www.elmhurstna.com)); or pick up at the Cottage Mart or Coloma Center. Folks who aren't on-line can request that copy be mailed to them by filling out the form at the Cottage Mart.

**Want to get more involved in our neighborhood?** Consider joining one of the ENA committees or starting one that addresses your interests/concerns. Current ENA committees include: Communications; Events; Neighborhood Quality; Neighborhood Watch; Parents; Traffic Calming; Trees.

If you have concerns related to our neighborhood, ideas for neighborhood activities, or other neighborhood related ideas, please come to the next ENA Board meeting, place ideas in the Suggestion Box at the Cottage Mart, or contact the Board: [ENABoard@elmhurstna.com](mailto:ENABoard@elmhurstna.com)

## Our Elmhurst Trees

*(continued from page 1)*

An elm tree was removed between 3809 and 3821 T St. after the city arborist determined it was in an advanced state of decline and posed safety issues.

According to STEP 60-70% of Elmhurst is being monitored now, with over 100 Citizen Scientists citywide. As of August 1, 1,026 Sacramento elms have been monitored – about half of the total population of public elms in the city.

To connect with other Elmhurst tree advocates, current STEP volunteers should email the ENA's new Tree Committee chair, Francesca Reitano at [elmhursttrees@elmhurstna.com](mailto:elmhursttrees@elmhurstna.com). Advocates can get involved in organize tree monitoring, sharing helpful information, discussing tree problems or issues (such as tree health, tree removal, etc.), reporting tree problems to the city's 311 number, and advocating to save trees.

### Other Tree News:

- After a number of neighbors contacted our councilmember Eric Guerra, the City, and the developer, plans for the under-construction house at 20057<sup>th</sup> now call for the heritage-sized sycamore to be saved.
- The new proposal for the development of the ATT parking lot on the north side of S St. between 37<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> Streets for 41 townhomes includes the removal of approximately 18 of 20 city street trees.

## Resources in Elmhurst

**Little Free Libraries.** Elmhurst has four Little Libraries registered with [www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org). These are: 5246 and 5818 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue; 5350 S street, and south side of T between 54<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup>.



**Post Office.** Many postal needs can be met at the Cottage Mart branch of the PO. There is also the outside mail box with Monday-Saturday pick up.



## S St. Development Proposal

*(continued from page 1)*

**Architecture.** Residents also expressed concern that townhomes in general don't fit the neighborhood, and that the uniform look of the townhomes is unlike the unique existing homes of Elmhurst. Residents suggested a mix of detached single family homes fronting on S St. with taller townhomes in the back, closer to the freeway. The developer agreed to take another look at those possibilities.

**Parking.** There is no plan to widen S St. in either the approved or proposed plan. There will continue to be no parking on the north side of S St. Residents have asked the City to widen S Street to accommodate parking. The proposed S Street Townhomes will have a Homeowners Association, which, among other things, would require residents to park in their garages. Each townhouse will have 2 car garages. There are 4 guest spaces for the 41 townhome complex.

**Traffic.** Residents have asked the City to include speed bumps on S and 37<sup>th</sup> Streets and make the 39<sup>th</sup> and S Street intersection a 4-way stop.

For more information, contact S Street Neighbors at: [cat.and.robb@gmail.com](mailto:cat.and.robb@gmail.com)