



- ELMHURST NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS -

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ELMHURST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION • SACRAMENTO, CA • FOUNDED IN 1908

President's Corner

By Amreet Sandhu

Neighbors,

Happy Autumn! As our stunning neighborhood shifts into full autumnal flare, I look forward to seeing October gardens grow spookier each day, leaf peeping on foot and bicycle, and serving as the Elmhurst Neighborhood Association (ENA) Board President.

A Sacramento native, I left my hometown for Santa Cruz, California and then Portland, Oregon. I'm a fan of living in beautiful places. Luckily, upon returning to town—I found Elmhurst. I love it for the same reasons you most likely do: it's charming, historic, quiet, walkable, close-in, leafy, and lovely. As I witnessed at the ENA Summer Picnic, Elmhurst has strong civic engagement and active community, city, and local business support; we couldn't be in a better place.

Our Board has been busy keeping our neighborhood and surrounding areas safe and vibrant. In this issue, you'll read more about our work with the City of Sacramento and Councilmember Guerra's office to accomplish many goals including: redeveloping the former AT&T building in a way that is consistent with our neighborhood aesthetic, keeping our residents and property safe and secure, mulching the trees along the T Street corridor to preserve our urban forest, connecting with the UC Davis Medical Center on traffic abatement and historic preservation issues, and more.

We achieve great things when we work together. If you would like to serve on the Board of Directors, I encourage you to submit an email to Elmhurstnews@gmail.com indicating your interest. The more people power we have, the more we can do for our community. There is plenty of space for your ideas and your energy—join us!

Lastly, I'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to former ENA Board President Michael Gasper for his tremendous work on behalf of our neighborhood. The Board congratulates him and Rebecca Marie on their recent success and wishes them a smooth transition into the next phase of their lives in San Jose.

Warmest Regards,

Amreet Sandhu, J.D.
Phone: (971) 344-3868
Email: amreet.sandhu@gmail.com



Fall 2015

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Monday, October 12

Deadline for public comments on the UCDMC demolition project (see page 4)

Tuesday, October 13

City Council meeting about proposed short-term rental ordinance changes (see page 3)

Saturday, October 24

ENA Annual Pancake Breakfast
9 to 11 a.m., Coloma Community Center
Costumes welcome!

Nov. 2, Dec. 2, Jan. 6

ENA Board Meetings
6:30 p.m., Cottage Mart patio
Held the 1st Wednesday of every month
If it's raining, we will likely meet at the Coloma Community Center; when in doubt, email ENA_board@googlegroups.com

Thursday, November 26

Thanksgiving Day

Friday, December 25

Christmas Day

Don't miss the Elmhurst Pancake Breakfast!

- Saturday, October 24
- Coloma Community Center

All ages are encouraged to wear costumes. Please see the back page for details.

UPDATES FROM YOUR REPRESENTATIVES



DISTRICT 6 NEWS

By City Councilmember
Eric Guerra

Now that we have our new District 6 team in place, we are working hard to service our community. We have been focused on improving our neighborhoods and environment in the Elmhurst area. As you may have noticed, our Parks Department has been protecting the trees in the parkway by distributing mulch around the base of the trees. Protecting our trees during this drought is a top priority and is beneficial to the environment and community.

City Council has approved the development of the Greenfair project which will bring single family homes into a once vacant and blighted area in the neighborhood. The Greenfair development embodies architecture that will blend well with the surrounding neighborhood, and spark a renewed energy and positive environment into our neighborhood.

As we head into fall, leaf season is upon us. City of Sacramento residential customers can legally place yard waste piles in the street for collection during the City's designated leaf season. Due to early leaf drop, City Arborists recommend an early leaf collection this year. The early start date for the fall leaf collection schedule will begin on October 19, 2015 and end on January 31, 2016. Until October 19, 2015, residents must use only their yard waste container for leaf collection. Piles out early may be tagged as illegal dumping and fines are possible.

As a board member on the Sacramento Metropolitan Cable Television Commission I am working on improving our telecommunications. The commission has approved funding for Access Sacramento and a new video truck. Additional funding and equipment will bring quality news reporting to the public in a more timely and efficient manner.

As the seasons change, our neighborhoods and communities are changing too. We appreciate any feedback or questions you have regarding these new changes. Thank you for your support, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Eric Guerra
Councilmember, District 6



2015 LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP

By Assemblymember
Kevin McCarty

With the California's 2015 Legislative session drawing to a close, I wanted to share some of my legislative milestones with you from my first year in office.

During budget negotiations this year, I successfully advocated for putting more resources into K-12 education and increasing access to our CSU and UC systems. This resulted in the largest investment in K-12 education in state history, \$216 million to increase enrollment for CSU students by 10,400, and \$144 million to fund 5,000 new UC students. I also authored AB 1307 (the Student Fee Transparency bill), which requires the UCs to freeze tuition and fees at current levels in order to receive state funding.

On my first day in office, I introduced AB 47, the Preschool for All Act. This bill allows all eligible low-income 4 year olds who don't have access to preschool or transitional kindergarten to have access to preschool. This is one of my highest priorities. I hope that by the time this newsletter is distributed, this Act will have been signed by the Governor and our education system will be better equipped to help our struggling working class families.

Many of our low and middle-income households have been left out of the economic recovery following the Great Recession. This is why I am proud to be an author of AB 43 which establishes a refundable California Earned Income Tax Credit. The EITC will provide much-needed economic stimulus in the most economically distressed communities.

If you have any questions regarding my legislative priorities contact me at **Assemblymember.McCarty@assembly.ca.gov** or call my district office at **(916) 324-4676**.

You can also sign-up to receive my future email updates by visiting my website at **<http://asmdc.org/members/a07/>**. I look forward to hearing from you.



City Services Updates

Watering schedule changes: Starting November 1, the City rolls back to its one-day-a week watering schedule. Residents are allowed to water either on Saturday or Sunday (your choice), when it is not raining. This schedule will be in effect until March 6, 2016.

Schedule for leaf pickup: Residents can legally put out leaf piles starting October 19. Collection will begin the week of October 19 and will end on its normal date of January 31, 2016. Until October 19, residents must use only their yard waste container for leaf collection.



To find out when “the claw” will visit your street, you can see the schedule at www.sacrecycle.org. The schedule will show the last pickup and an estimate of the next collection date.

- Please note that the Household Junk Collection service will not be available during this time period, as the same crews and equipment are used for both services. The collection service will resume in February.
- Appliance & E-waste collection occurs year-round and appointments are available during leaf season.

City to pick up Elmhurst tree mulching: *Good news!* The City of Sacramento’s Public Works Department will be mulching the trees along the Elmhurst parkways this fall. In our last newsletter, we asked for volunteers to help, but the City will contract out the service, so neighborhood volunteers are not needed for this project. Many thanks go to ENA Board member **Bonnie Hansen** for following up on this much-needed project to help our trees survive the drought.

City exploring new rules on short-term rentals: The City of Sacramento is starting to gather information on proposed changes to the City’s regulations on short-term rentals, including services such as Air B-and-B. Some residents of East Sacramento have made formal complaints about the noise, messes, and other issues introduced to the area by short-term renters.

A meeting of the City’s Law and Legislation Committee about this proposed change will be held at 3 p.m. on **October 13** in the City Council Chambers at 915 I Street. At this meeting, the committee will review information from the two community meetings held on this topic in August and September and discuss possible changes to the city code.

Volunteers needed: The City of Sacramento is always in need of volunteers to assist with various projects and events. One event going on near our area is the River Park Tree Canopy Project. Volunteers will be planting trees at Glen Hall Park at 9 a.m. on **November 14**. For more information, please contact cadence@surewest.net. Or, to find out about the many other volunteer opportunities with the City, please visit www.sacvolunteers.org.

Free composting seminar: The City of Sacramento Recycling and Solid Waste Division is hosting a free backyard composting seminar on Saturday, **November 7**, at the Fremont Community Garden at 14th and Q streets. Two hour-long sessions will be held, one starting at 8 a.m. and another at 9 a.m. Composting is a great way to save money and water, reduce waste, and improve the quality of the soil in your yard. Attendees will receive a composting guide and will be able to purchase a GEOBIN Compost bin at a special seminar cost of \$10. Registration is free; you can RSVP at [Facebook.com/SacRecycle](https://www.facebook.com/SacRecycle).

NEW DEVELOPMENTS UPDATE



The Evergreen Development

The Sacramento City Council has unanimously approved the development project planned at Stockton Boulevard and T Street (the existing AT&T building).

ENA Board member **Tom Cregger** spoke at the City Council meeting on Sept. 15 in support of the development. At the Elmhurst General Meeting on Sept. 16, he outlined some of the reasons Elmhurst Board has supported the project.

- This development has been several years in the making, and the developers have been very cooperative with all of the questions and requests made by the Board and by Elmhurst residents.
- The intersection at Stockton and T Street will be improved, with dedicated turn lanes and a clearer path for bikes that cross Stockton Boulevard.
- The home designs have been through a number of changes, based on resident feedback. The homes will fit into the architectural style of the neighborhood.
- The development, which could have been a medical office building, are below the city standards for density.

Property at 57th and T Streets

It has come to the ENA Board's attention that the owner of an undeveloped slice of land located at 57th and T streets has moved forward on plans to build a two-story home on the property.

At the Elmhurst General Meeting on Sept. 16, a local resident who lives near the property outlined the issue and gave an overview of the history of the parcel. The problem is that the slice of land is very small, and a two-story structure could not only be an eyesore (in that it would overwhelm the space), it could also require the removal of large trees on the property.

Ideas about the issue were discussed at that meeting, such as asking the City to purchase the property and the possibility of creating a community garden.

To learn more, or to get involved, please email the ENA Board at ena_board@googlegroups.com.

UC DAVIS MED CENTER UPDATE

Over the past few months, an ambitious plan by the UCDMC to demolish numerous buildings and replace them with other structures has been announced. Elmhurst residents will be affected by these changes, so it's important that you let your thoughts be known now. Unfortunately, the required period for community input ends on **Monday, October 12**.

The stated plans include the destruction of a large 1950s-era tower that is very close to 42nd and V streets, as well as the "Housestaff building," a 100-year-old Spanish Colonial that was designed by the same architect who designed the Sacramento City Hall.

UCDMC has announced that the buildings are seismically unsafe and, therefore, plans to demolish them. Many Elmhurst residents believe that the Housestaff building could be retrofitted to make it safe and to preserve a historic building in the neighborhood. Residents also question the location of the new tower so close to V St.

A public hearing was held on Monday, Sept. 21 to discuss the issue of the large demolition project. Many Elmhurst residents provided testimony about their memories of the Housestaff building, their opposition to tearing it down, and their concerns about traffic, noise, and air quality issues that could come into play if the buildings are demolished and a new tower is built.

To learn more about this project, please visit the Elmhurst Facebook page at [facebook.com/ElmhurstSacto](https://www.facebook.com/ElmhurstSacto). Or you can see the UCDMC documents in full at http://sustainability.ucdavis.edu/progress/commitment/environmental_review/. Click on "Sacramento Hospital Seismic Demolition and Office Replacement."

If you would like to offer comments to UCD, please email them at environreview@ucdavis.edu. Please reply before the deadline of **October 12th**.



Crime Is Down in Elmhurst

Crime is absolutely unwelcome in our neighborhood. Thankfully—in Elmhurst, it is decreasing.

As discussed at the Elmhurst Neighborhood Association’s 2015 Summer Safety Summit, Elmhurst crime is down this year. That does not mean that we are safe, and the year is not quite over, which means numbers for the year may change. Even one criminal incident is too much, and even one crime victim is too many victims. To keep numbers down, residents must be vigilant in watching out for themselves and one another.

However, social media websites, like **Nextdoor.com**, can sometimes create a type of hysteria or “stranger danger” that is unhelpful in actual crime response or crime prevention. In fact, sometimes unclear or inaccurate reports can create a distraction from actual criminal activity.

All residents are encouraged to report crime on Nextdoor.com and to the police in a way that clearly outlines what behavior was unwelcome, uncomfortable, and even criminal, so that we as a community may be proactive in successfully apprehending and preventing crime. Once the behavior is articulated, it may be helpful to include a description, or take a photo, of the person causing concern.

When reporting crime, please remember that reporting on Nextdoor.com is not enough. A report to the police must be made. These reports determine how the Sacramento Police Department will allocate resources. Reports may be made online at: <http://portal.cityofsacramento.org/Police/How-Do-I-File-a-Police-Report>, or call **(916) 264-5471**. However, if the crime is still in progress, call 911 immediately.

The ENA Board of Directors will continue to notify residents and businesses of opportunities to learn more about how to prevent crime in Elmhurst. Let’s keep up the good work of maintaining low crime statistics.

Contributed by Amreet Sandhu

Sacramento Police Department Crime Analysis Unit			
Elmhurst			
January 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015			
Crime Type	2013	2014	2015
Homicide	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0
Robbery Total	0	2	1
Robbery Person	0	2	1
Robbery Business	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	1	2	0
Burglary Total	11	13	10
Burglary Residence	11	13	10
Burglary Business	0	0	0
Larceny	20	25	6
Theft from Motor Vehicle	14	11	4
Motor Vehicle Theft	12	3	2



Sacramento Police Captain Kevin Gardener (center) and other Sacramento PD officers presented the crime statistics shown above at the Elmhurst Safety Summit.

Prevent Bicycle Theft

During the Elmhurst 2015 Summer Safety Summit, Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA) Executive Director Jim Brown provided excellent tips on how to prevent bicycle theft in Elmhurst.

- (1) Register your bike.** Only 2% of recovered bikes are returned to owners because they were never registered or the theft was not reported. Find your bike's serial number, and get it registered at rideon.sacpd.org.
- (2) Take as many photos of your bike as you can,** including its unique features, and yourself with it so that it can be identified as yours if recovered. Upload a photo of you and your bike to your bike registration profile.

Story continues on next page

October 24 Is the Day for Pancakes ... and Costumes!

Calling all Elmhurst ghouls and goblins!

On Saturday, **October 24**, Elmhurst will celebrate the season with the annual **Elmhurst Pancake Breakfast**.

A scrumptious breakfast, cooked by Elmhurst Board members, will be served from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Coloma Community Center.

Come meet your neighbors and enjoy both the pancakes (with all the fixings) and the costumes. A costume contest will be held, and the best costume will win a prize. All ages are encouraged to wear costumes.

All residents of the Elmhurst neighborhood are invited and encouraged to attend. It will be a great opportunity to not only meet other Elmhurst residents, but you can meet the members of the ENA Board and learn about the many opportunities that are currently available.



JOIN THE ENA BOARD AND GET INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

President: Amreet Sandhu
Vice President: Open
Secretary: Open
Treasurer: Gordon Olson

Newsletter Editor:
Susan C. Carlson
Parents Group: Open
Events Coordinator: Open

Members:
Al Eno
Bonnie Hansen
Britt Moise
Diana Lamotta
George Godfrey
Kerry Freeman
Stevie Cook
Tom Cregger

Please consider joining the ENA Board. We would really value your input on how to keep our neighborhood great!

To contact the Board, please email us at ena_board@googlegroups.com or call (971) 344-3868.

To submit news for the newsletter, please email elmhurstnews@gmail.com.

"Prevent Bicycle Theft," continued from page 5

(3) Lock your bike. Lock it at home as you would if you were at the grocery store. Lock it up in your backyard/garage even if your areas are locked. Run your lock through your wheels; run your lock through your saddle (some will steal parts rather than an entire bike). Your job is to make your bike harder to steal than another's bike. Select high quality locks rather than locks that are easy to cut or break. The more locks, the better.

(4) Consider getting a "Is this a bait bike?" sticker. If the person is together enough to read, it may

cause the person to think twice. Many bait bikes have been recovered around town. The bikes are valued at over \$1,000 so that thieves can be charged with a felony (grand theft) versus a misdemeanor based on the value of the object taken. Many bike shops in Sacramento have the stickers. Or ask any Sacramento Police bicycle officer to see if he or she has stickers.

More tips from SABA can be found here: sacbike.org/for-bike-riders/protect-your-ride