

Winchester San Tomas
THE EDEN EXAMINER
Payne Williams



**March
2005**

Web page: <http://www.EdenNeighborhoodAssociation.org> ENA Hotline: (408) 404-7404

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Address: P.O. Box 9383, San Jose, CA 95157

Next Meeting: *Amber Drive Primary Plus School, Tuesday, March 8th, 7:00 p.m.*

Guest Speakers: Lydia Botsworth & John Peplowski

Topic: Income Tax & Financial Planning



March 8th General Meeting Agenda

- Committee reports
- Election: Treasurer Replacement
- ENA featured speakers: Lydia Botsworth & John Peplowski

This month we will have two very special guests, each offering insights in the current tax laws and financial planning:

➤ **Lydia Botsworth** is a CPA with over 15 years of accounting experience. She is highly qualified to talk and answer questions about the numerous changes in the tax law, and how it effects the average homeowner. She also teaches or has taught at Evergreen, DeAnza, Foothill, and UC Santa Cruz Extension. Her office is in the neighborhood on Winchester Blvd between Payne Ave & Williams Rd.

➤ **John Peplowski** is a Certified Senior Advisor of Golden Years Financial. He will talk about annuities, how they work, and what they are, as well as answering other questions regarding retirement and financial planning. John is very generous with his time and holds weekly meetings and seminars throughout Northern California with the Bay Area Buyers Network, AARP, Rotary, and Kiwanis. He also has an office in our neighborhood on Winchester Blvd between Payne Ave & Williams Rd.

Together they have a wealth of knowledge to share. Please join us. Bring your questions and learn what things we can do about our finances.

**Emergency Preparedness Exercise
Saturday, April 23rd**

The month of April has traditionally been established as Earthquake Awareness Month. In keeping with this theme, ENA conducts an annual exercise to remind our residents to be prepared, and to exercise our teams.

This year's exercise will take place on Saturday, April 23rd between 9 – 11:30am at the Amber Drive Primary Plus School parking lot. Teams will be dispatched to perform "Damage Assessment" over the eight sectors in our community which contain approximately 100 homes each. This assessment phase is critical, since in a real emergency, it could very well determine what assistance we need to obtain from city services.

How can you participate? Easy! Come out and join us at the parking lot. The "Green Team" of trained personnel appreciate any help they can get. And no, you don't need to have completed the San Jose Prepared classes to participate. Come join us! Come get prepared!

Even if you can't join us, please be aware that after an earthquake, the survey teams don't have the ability to ring everyone's doorbells. So for this exercise, you can participate by stepping outside & giving the survey team a "thumbs up" as part of your participation.

We are still considered one of the premier prepared communities by the San Jose Office of Emergency Services. If you would like more information on the exercise, please contact me via the ENA Hotline (408) 404-7404.

**Working Toward a Safe, Clean,
Friendly Neighborhood**

- Al Hagmann

President's Message

Betty Kabanek

ENA is fortunate to have over 50 active volunteers. Among those is Mona Hall. Mona has been our treasurer and an active board member for a number of years. She has worked on nearly every committee, and is one of the first to volunteer new ideas and make suggestions for enhancing the association. Now she has to cut back in order to care for her two young children at home. With that in mind, she has resigned as treasurer. I can't thank Mona enough for all she has done and for all I know she will continue to do.

At the same time, we need to fill the void. Tom Marron has graciously volunteered to take over as treasurer. To effect that change, we will ask the March meeting attendees to approve his election. If you don't know Tom, please take the time to introduce yourself.

One of the things that organizations must do for continued success is to grow new leadership. I'm very pleased that we will have added two new board members this year, Bret Carpenter (VP) & Gail Jordan (Sec.), and hopefully Tom. Many, many thanks.

ENA Email Distribution List

Please call the hotline (408) 404-7404 or send an email to email @ EdenNeighborhoodAssociation.org if you want to be added to the email distribution list or if your email address has changed.

What the Panelists Said

At last month's meeting we heard from 3 guests: Dr. Shishir Mathur, a professor from the San Jose State University Urban Planning Department; Ms. Selinda Bem-Shirley, a residential real estate appraiser; and Ms Joannie Sevilla, a writer for The Guides (San Jose Mercury News). Each panelist shared views about our neighborhood. Some of the things I came away with:

Dr. Shishir: High density housing normally depresses nearby residential property values. Increased traffic is one issue. Another issue is the city's propensity to hold developers to minimum standards when it comes to parking. His suggestion is that we make ourselves aware of high density housing plans (e.g. that being

proposed for the old Wienerschnitzel property) and work to ensure that the plans respond positively to community input.

Ms. Bem-Shirley: Neighborhoods keep their highest potential value when they have tree-lined streets and homes are kept in good repair. In addition, neighborhoods that have a consistent look tend to keep their value better than neighborhoods without a consistent look. A contemporary façade added to a home on a street comprised of all traditional homes might detract from the area's property values.

Ms. Sevilla: The *San Jose Mercury News* is interested in neighborhood events, and will often announce them if they have two weeks notice. They are also interested in the history of neighborhoods.

All of the speakers made complimentary remarks about the brick crosswalks on Eden Ave, the power of neighborhood associations, and the benefits of identifying and naming a neighborhood.

If you missed the meeting, you missed a great opportunity to ask questions, and receive feedback from three people with different perspectives, who took time to drive through our neighborhood, and talk to us about it.

- Betty Kabanek

Upcoming Calendar of Events

- Mar 08 **GM: Income Tax & Financial Planning**
- Apr 12 General Meeting
- Apr 16 Neighborhood Garage Sale
- Apr 23 Emergency Preparedness
- May 10 General Meeting
- Jun 25 ENA's Annual Family Summer Picnic
- Jun 14 General Meeting
- Aug 02 National Night Out
- Aug 09 General Meeting
- Sept 13 General Meeting
- Sept 17 ENA 10th Annual Dumpster Day
- Oct 11 General Meeting
- Oct 15 ENA 8th Annual Volunteer Appreciation
- Nov 08 General Meeting & Elections
- Dec 17 ENA 6th Annual "Festival of Lights"



Beautification Committee



Thanks go to Alex Gebhart-Hardin for his assistance in spading up part of the ENA central flower bed in preparation for spring flowers. His continuing efforts are much appreciated.

Daffodils, pansies and african daisies are now blooming. Irises will be blooming next. More flowers will be planted later.

- Carl Shoemaker

Keeping a Watchful Eye

In recent weeks we have had a resurgence of mail thefts reported. Remember, identity theft and fraud can be avoided if access to your information is prevented – this includes your mailbox. Consider installing a locking mailbox which is securely fastened to your house wall. Also, outgoing mail is best taken to the post office or placed in a secure postal mailbox. In short, make sure only you have access to your mail.

If you have experienced such an event, please report it to both the San Jose Police and the Postal Service. Notify the bank if you had checks in your mail. Should you spot someone stealing your mail or a neighbor's mail, immediately notify 911. Make notes of their description, any associated vehicle, and the direction of travel, if witnessed. Non-witnessed crimes and events should be reported to 311, in person, or via the web at <http://www.sjpd.org> - simply click on the link for "On-line Reporting." However, if you have suspect information (name, address) you will need to call 311 or visit a police station.

- Armin Quiring

Fearless League Starts in March

Westside Fearless Baseball League at Primary Plus-Amber Drive fields begins league play this month thru May. All local neighborhood children from kindergarten thru 6th grade are invited to join. All games and practices are at the Primary Plus field. \$60 entry fee includes uniform, hat, pictures, etc. For more information, call Primary Plus at (408) 248-2464.

- Betsy Gebhart



Your Own Garden of Eden Through Composting



Your neighborhood Master Composters, Armin & Ivy Quiring and Jane Malone, invite you to take a free Composting Basics workshop close to home. If you're interested in making your back and front yards a "Garden of Eden" by becoming a better gardener, recycler, and steward of Earth's resources, this is a great class to consider. All adults are invited to attend and learn the A-B-C's of backyard and worm composting in a fun and informative classroom experience. You'll discover ways to recycle "Garbage" - yard trimmings and food scraps - into the magic soil amendment gardeners all over the world call "Black Gold." Local Master Composter volunteers conduct the workshop - and you'll be able to purchase low cost composting bins and equipment after the class as well. Such a deal! Choose from one of the following:

- Moreland-W. San Jose Community Center, Fallbrook Ave at Campbell Ave: Apr 9, Jul 16, or Oct 15.
- Campbell Community Center, Campbell Ave at Winchester Blvd: Mar 26, May 14, Aug 27, or Oct 29.
- Amber Drive School: Armin, Ivy, & Jane are willing to teach a class for the neighborhood, if there is enough interest: TBD (details to follow).

All classes are 10am – noon. Pre-registration is required. Registration can be done via phone (408) 918-4640, email [compost @ pln.sccgov.org](mailto:compost@pln.sccgov.org) or webpage <http://www.ReduceWaste.org>.

- Ken Kelly



Be Prepared! San Jose Prepared!

Are you on ENA's Emergency Preparedness Team? Would you like to be?

The 2005 series of training modules, beginning with Module 1 (held in the EOC at 855 North San Pedro St, others TBA), occur on Saturday mornings with the final class and graduation occurring on Monday evening. Classes are \$10.00 each, payable at the door & advanced registration is required. You may register with San Jose Prepared via phone (408) 277-4593, fax (408) 277-3345, email [SJPrepared @ sanjoseca.gov](mailto:SJPrepared@sanjoseca.gov), or <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/emergencyservices/sanjoseprepared/index.htm>

- Armin & Ivy Quiring

Membership Report

At printing time, ENA's membership stands at 197, including 16 new members. ENA has a 2005 budget of \$8,578. To reach this amount, we need 572 members. The most we have had was 450 members a few years ago. Our average for the last three years has been around 410. There are 810 residents. Last year, we had 410 members plus additional donations of \$2,168. Our 2004 budget had a surplus of \$0.07. That was close. ENA's Board of Directors is doing all it can to make this neighborhood safe, clean, and friendly. All projects are for the benefit of everybody in the neighborhood, with the exception of Dumpster Day, which requires membership. That is because of the high cost of the activity. Is \$15.00 membership a year too much to ask? We don't think so. This is our neighborhood, and it is up to us to keep it safe, clean, and friendly. Many work very hard to do a great service for their neighbors. If you have any ideas on how we can do better, let us know. Play a part in those ideas. We need more help!

ENA would welcome new members: Phil & Roxanne Chamberlin and their son Patrick, and Thomas Manoj & Ana Iglesias and their daughters Isabel & Iris. We hope you enjoy our great neighborhood and participate in committees and all the events ENA has scheduled.

The following are renewing members that continue to support ENA:

Clyde Allen	Richard Kaufmann	Keith & Yvette Schemm
Stephen & Melinda Landau Baker	Jack & Bunny Kuo	Peter & Cathy Scibetta
Henry & Randee Chin	Masami & Jiyushi Kusumoto	Jason & Roseanne Smith
Sylvia Chung	Connie Magnano	Peter & Mladenka Sorich
Kayshav & Narmada Dattartri	Lee & Rose Myers	Bob & Anka Vuksich
Silvia Felix	Pristina Roquemore Ortiz	Jim & Marianne Williams
Dave & Heidi Gilles	Clara Rose	John & Eva Yaccarine
Bharat & Smita Joshi	Kermit & Carol Rydeen	

For membership or questions, call Mario at (408) 482-5731 or email him at mariorv@sbcglobal.net.



- Mario Vazquez

Book Circus For Kids – March 19th

The Safe from the Start Program will be hosting the 3rd Annual Safe from the Start Book Circus, "Building Blocks for Growing Minds!" This will take place on March 19th, from 10am-2pm at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in downtown San Jose (near 4th and San Fernando Streets). Come for free books, backpacks, and resources for kids & parents. Stop by to check out crafts booths, health screening, stage performances, appearances by Vice-Mayor Cindy Chavez, Clifford the Big Red Dog, Madeleine, Curious George, and much more. For more information, visit the website: <http://www.safefromthestartsanjose.org>.

- Information provided by Mona Hall

"Monsters in the Closet" – Saturday, April 2nd & Sunday, April 3rd

Starring Numerous ENA Children & Directed by a Neighborhood Parent

ENA member and parent Gayatri Subramaniam is directing the annual school play at Payne Elementary School, the neighborhood's public school. The play is called "Monster in the Closet." More than 20 ENA neighborhood children will be starring in the play, including Nicole Speciale, Kira Rakova, Sierra and Alyssa Dwyer, Abby Gebhart-Hardin, Ahalya Srikant, Sirpi Nackeran, Sanjana and Odilia Barr, Owen and Emily Gilles, Molly Fuller, Bethany and Grace Kim, Brandon Collins, Kishan and Samir Patel, Nicolas Catalano, Cierra Bright, Ashkan Shalhaf, Ryann Phillips, Gunnar Vogelsong, and Freddie Rupprecht. The two performances are on Saturday, April 2nd, and Sunday, April 3rd, at the Rogers Middle School multi-use room, located at 4835 Doyle Road. For more information, call the Payne Elementary School (408) 874-3700.

- Betsy Gebhart