

SARANAP HOMEOWNERS ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

S P R I N G 2 0 1 0

DON'T MISS OUR ANNUAL MEETING!

The Saranap Homeowners Organization annual meeting will be held on

May 20, 2010

7:30 to 9:00 pm

At the
Sun Valley
Bible Chapel
3111 Patty Way (at
1031 Leland Drive),
Lafayette

*See the map on page 7
and the detailed map on
www.saranap.org*

SUFISM REORIENTED PROJECT UPDATE: THE EIR BY BRIAN KILIAN

The County recently made a decision to require the Sufism Reoriented Sanctuary project to provide a full Environmental Impact Review study for the proposed development on Boulevard Way.

As most of us in the Saranap neighborhood have been watching this development slowly move through the County planning review process, we are curious about what the impact of this decision means; and what exactly is an Environmental Impact Report? (E.I.R.)

Initially, Sufism Reoriented will provide a Draft Environmental Impact Report. To insure objectivity, the County will select an independent consultant to prepare the Draft EIR; this consultant will be responsible only to the County; although the fee will be paid by Sufism Reoriented. The Draft EIR assesses the potential environmental consequences of the proposed Sufism development along Boulevard Way. Additionally, the report will identify mitigation measures and alternatives that would avoid or reduce significant im-

pacts. The County will be the lead agency for this project.

The Draft EIR is intended to inform the County decision-makers, other agencies, and the public (Saranap Neighborhood) of these aspects of the project as part of their consideration of the requested land-use permit. The Draft EIR will be prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act. (CEQA)

The Draft EIR is usually organized in several chapters as follows:

- **Introduction** – Provides an overview of the Draft EIR document.
- **Report Summary** – A synopsis of the environmental impacts of the project, lists mitigation measures for impacts identified as significant, and shows the level of significant impacts before and after mitigation.

Project Description – Describes the
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A TOUR OF WWW.SARANAP.ORG BY RON OGG

The Saranap Homeowners Organization website is at www.saranap.org. Let's take a tour of what you can find there about SHO and your Saranap neighborhood.

The first thing you'll see when you arrive at

www.saranap.org is our **Home** page. There are three major sections on this page: the navigation bar below the Saranap train station photo; Meeting Notices and the Inside section are at the left side; and the main content takes most of

the rest of the page. This general design is used throughout the site.

The Inside section describes new information that's been added with links to those pages. The main content on the

(Continued on page 6)

MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Saranap Homeowner's Organization was founded in 2009 to provide Saranap homeowners with a true and unbiased voice, dedicated to preserving and fostering the long established character of our neighborhood as semi-rural, low density and residential. The SHO is a legitimate entity, recognized and registered not only with Contra Costa County, but also with the In-

ternal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(4) not for profit community organization. The Saranap Homeowners Organization is strictly governed by its Mission Statement and Bylaws, and is managed by nine Board members, many of whom were former founders and members of the Saranap Community Association before its unfortunate takeover in 2008.

President **Wayne Fetting** has been a homeowner in two different Saranap homes since 1983, and is passionately committed to preserving the semi-rural and low-density neighborhood character. He was a founding member and first vice president of the Saranap Homeowners Association (which later became the Saranap Community Association), where he then served as

a board member for seven years. He also served a term as president. Over the years, Wayne has established good working relationships with and is well respected by Contra Costa County governmental agencies.

Vice President **Brian Kilian** was raised in Saranap and grew up on Juanita Drive. Later his family moved to Tice Valley where he attended Del

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BURGLARS HIT SARANAP

BY RICHARD GALTON

Home burglaries are on the rise in Saranap. An online source registered 35 incidents (not including vehicle theft) in our area from 1/1 to 3/10 this year, roughly twice what they were a few months ago. See crimereports.com and www.saranap.org.

Many of these crimes are taking place in broad daylight. Thieves, often working in pairs with one functioning as a lookout, are breaking in, using a crowbar to force a front door. Televisions, computers, jewelry and other home items are targeted. Locked doors are not appearing to be a deterrent, however alarms may help. There are indications that burglars are "casing" homes ahead of time to learn the number of occupants, and when they are home.

Unfortunately, overall po-

lice manpower is suffering from budget cuts, resulting in fewer regular patrols and decreased support of Neighborhood Watch Programs.

Although there have been only two vehicles stolen in Saranap in the last year, auto burglary is also up. In one case a garage

"Being alert
never
hurts"

remote control was stolen, and the garage later burglarized. The Sheriff's Department has increased undercover patrols, and a suspect was apprehended on 3/19 due to an alert neighbor.

We can all help by taking common sense steps.

- **Be observant.** Notice people and vehicles which seem out of place. Talk with your neighbors; watch each other's homes. Learn about your neighbor's habits to identify visitors and vehicles that may appear unusual. Keep neighbors informed when you leave on vacation, even for the weekend.
- **Never** approach a suspicious person. Observe, note license plate numbers, and call the Sheriff at 911 or 925-646-2441.
- Take steps to make your home appear occupied when you are not home. Use timers to activate lights and radios. Have your neighbors pick up your

newspapers and mail, or stop delivery while you are gone. Unplug your garage door opener so burglars can't use decoders and gain access.

- **Lock** your car, even when it is parked in your driveway or in your garage. Don't leave valuables in your car, particularly in plain sight. Always take your GPS with you when you exit your car. If stolen, the "Home" feature displays where you live.

Additional strategies are available at:

www.crimedocter.com/home.htm.

Updated information on incidents in Saranap is being shared by neighbors at:

<http://groups.google.com/group/saranap-group>.

MEET YOUR BOARD (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 2)

Valle High School. After graduating from UC Berkeley with a degree in Landscape Architecture, Brian moved back to Saranap where he now lives and is raising his own family.

Secretary **Kathy Rogers** and her husband have been Saranap homeowners for 37 years and raised their son and daughter here. Their daughter and her husband bought a home in Saranap so the Rogers' commitment to this area will continue to the next generation. Kathy has been involved in preserving Saranap for many years and was a founding board member of the former Saranap Homeowners Association. Kathy is a school teacher and loves the history and quiet nature of our neighborhood.

Treasurer **Ronald Ogg** is also the designer and webmaster for the Saranap Homeowners Organization website (www.saranap.org). Ron retired from 40 years of management positions in the Information Technology field in 2006, and has become involved in the community to help support the Saranap Homeowners Organization's mission to preserve our semi-rural neighborhood environment. Ron also volunteers as a web designer and webmaster for several non-profit organizations, and is a volunteer Medicare counselor and webmaster for Contra Costa County HICAP.

Richard Galton was a banker at Wells Fargo and a high school teacher in Danville. He has called Saranap home for 32 years. He was attracted to the many trees and peaceful streets and his fondness for the neighborhood has continued to grow. Dick has worked on neighborhood issues for nearly a decade and served on the committee that successfully kept traffic of our streets from the Hidden Oaks development

in Lafayette.

Stacey Bradbury has lived in Saranap for over 40 years. She grew up on Leland Drive and attended schools here. Stacey now owns her own 70 year home on an original Dewing property. She finds its upkeep and restoration a challenge and very satisfying. Because of her love for Saranap, Stacey was a Board member of the Saranap Community Association, and has been on the Board of the Saranap Homeowners Organization since 2006.

Charles Stepp and his wife purchased a home in Saranap in 1999 to raise their two children. Their attraction this area was the small town feel, great schools, and area amenities. Chuck formerly worked as a baker, and now is a stay at home father which has allowed him to be more involved with the Saranap community. Chuck was instrumental in helping to start the Saranap Community Garden along Olympic Boulevard and has remained active in the Garden project and the Saranap Community Organization.

Tim Lynch has lived in Saranap for over 31 years and owns several properties in the neighborhood. He raised his son here, and has owned a landscape construction company since 1972. He is the investor in 2 popular restaurants in Lafayette and Montclair. Tim is very committed to maintaining the established quality and feel of our area. Tim provides business sense, balance and practicality to our organization.

Paul Borgwardt has been a Saranap homeowner for 27 years. He and his family also own and, until two years ago, operated the Saranap Filling Station. Paul has been a Board member on the various Saranap organizations since the mid 1990's. Because of his deep roots and fondness for the community, he is committed to upholding the Sara-

nap Homeowners Organization Mission Statement.

Deb Lowande was born and raised in Hollywood, CA where she attended Hollywood High School and graduated from UCLA with degrees in English and French. In 1984, Deb relocated to Walnut Creek to work for Bank of America. After a short job related return to Los Angeles in 1988, she returned permanently to Walnut Creek in 1992 to live and continue her career with the Bank. Deb moved to Saranap in 1998 where she has resided since. Deb continues to work as a Network Project Manager and has developed strong ties to her neighbors and neighborhood. Having grown up in a large city, she appreciates and enjoys the rural feel and beauty of the area.

Mark Berch grew up in what was "small town" Santa Clara in the south bay. He then moved into his Saranap home in 1991. The rural small feel of Saranap is what brought him to this neighborhood and maintaining that feel is what brought him to the Saranap Homeowners Organization. A member of the heavy construction and building industries for over 30 years, Mark will offer insight and practical knowledge to the issues affecting our neighborhood.



Join the Saranap Homeowners Organization

Giving Saranap residents a true independent voice in the future of our neighborhood

The Saranap Homeowners Organization is committed to preserving the semi-rural quality of our neighborhood.

To that end, we:

- Oppose the incursion of "big box" homes, condominium complexes, and other construction not in keeping with the semi-rural character of the neighborhood
- Review Planning Department applications for new construction and remodels and all applications for variances, tree permits, and subdivision of lots in Saranap, and consult with residents about proposed construction in their neighborhoods
- Make recommendations to County planners based on our findings
- Keep members informed about proposed development and new construction in Saranap
- Keep members informed about new and proposed laws and regulations that affect (or would affect) the quality of life in Saranap.

All Saranap homeowners are encouraged to join. Membership is a nominal \$25.00 per year per home address. This covers the costs for telephone, postage, printing, our website, and expert and legal consultations as necessary.

- You must be a homeowner in Saranap to join the Saranap Homeowners Organization.
- Memberships are for twelve months from the month you join.
- Membership is per home, one voting membership per household in the annual Board of Directors election.

Please complete this form and mail it, with your check, to:

Saranap Homeowners Organization

PO Box 2272

Walnut Creek, CA 94595-0272

Please make your check payable to: **Saranap Homeowners Organization.**

Additional contributions are needed and gratefully accepted. Thank you!

I/We are homeowners in Saranap, and would like to join the Saranap Homeowners Organization for one year at the rate of \$25.00 per year per household.

MEMBERSHIP: (please check one): RENEWAL ☐ NEW Membership ☐

Name(s) _____

Please print

Address _____ Walnut Creek, CA Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

We have Lived in Saranap Since _____

I am able to help with: Photography ☐ Printing ☐ Community Planning ☐ Traffic ☐ Legal ☐
Membership ☐ Secretarial ☐ Historical ☐ Writing ☐ Newsletter ☐ Website ☐
Engineering ☐ Neighborhood Canvassing ☐

ANNUAL MEETING: MAY 20

Don't miss the Saranap Homeowners Organization first annual membership meeting, on May 20, 2010 from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Sun Valley Bible Chapel, located at 3111 Patty Way (at 1031 Leland Dr.) in Lafayette. See the map at the right; there's a larger map on www.saranap.org.

The hot topic at this meeting will be the latest updates of the proposed Sufism Reoriented sanctuary on Boulevard Way. The SHO has gone on

record as being opposed to the current size and design of this development as inappropriate for our residential neighborhood.

Also being discussed will be the proposed plan to beautify the four-lane commercial section of Boulevard Way. We are proposing a reduction of lanes as well as the addition of planters and street trees.

Please join us on May 20th to meet your neighbors and join the discussions and decisions that affect the Saranap community.



SUFISM PROJECT EIR (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 1)

project, site location and characteristics, history, objectives, construction activities and approximate schedules, and required permits and approvals.

• **Environmental Evaluation** – evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the project and identifies mitigations measures for any significant impacts. This chapter usually consists of 12 sections:

1. Land Use and Policy
2. Population, Housing and Employment
3. Community Service
4. Transportation and Parking
5. Infrastructure
6. Visual Quality
7. Cultural Resources

8. Geology, Soils and Seismicity
9. Hazards and Hazardous Materials
10. Hydrology and Water Quality
11. Air Quality
12. Noise

• **Alternatives** – Considers alternatives to the project, the CEQA-required No Project Alternative, and identifies the "environmental superior alternative."

• **CEQA** – Required Assessment Conclusions – Evaluates project effects with regard to growth inducement, significant irreversible changes, unavoidable significant impacts, and impacts found not to be significant.

After the Draft EIR is completed it is made available for review and comment by the public and other agencies for a 45-day public comment period. The County may hold public hearings on the Draft EIR to solicit oral comments regarding the Draft EIR.

Following the close of the 45-day comment period, a Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) will be prepared, which will respond to substantive comments received on the Draft EIR that are related to the potential environmental consequences of the project. The Final EIR will be available for public review before being considered for certification as adequate by the County.

If the County certifies the Final EIR, it will also consider the project itself,

which it may approve, deny, or approve with conditions. The County may require the mitigation measures specified in the Final EIR as conditions of project approval; it may require other mitigation measures; it may find that the mitigation measures are outside the jurisdiction of the County to implement; or it may find that there are no mitigation measures for the significant impact but that the project is nonetheless necessary or desirable due to specific overriding considerations, including economic factors, and approve the project anyway, despite the unavoidable significant impacts.



A TOUR OF WWW.SARANAP.ORG (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 1)

Home page includes a Welcome section with links to the About Us page and our Join Us! page where there's a form for joining SHO. The Latest Updates section describes what's happening with major construction projects in Saranap, and information and news about the Saranap Homeowners Organization.

The easiest way to move about the website is to use the buttons on the navigation bar. These buttons link to most of the other pages on the site.

The first button links to the **Home** page. You'll notice that the word "Home" is highlighted in green; the name of the page you are currently visiting is usually highlighted this way (other than secondary pages).

The second button is **Projects**. This page has the latest information about applications for construction projects that are proposed (like the Sufism Reoriented sanctuary project), applications that are in process, and applications that have been completed. We provide the information about these projects as we receive it from the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development (the "Planning Department"). If the SHO Board of Directors has taken a position on a pro-

ject that that position will be described.

The next button takes you to the **Maps** page. We have a map to Gail Uilke's office where our Board of Directors meetings are held, a link to a map to the Sun Valley Bible Chapel where we hold our annual meetings, and an interactive map of the Saranap area.

Next is a link to our **Photos** page that has pictures taken in Saranap. If you have any digital photos you have taken in your Saranap neighborhood that you'd be willing to share, please follow the instructions on the Photos page (and on page 7 in this issue to submit them and they will be posted).

The **About Us** page is just that, including a description about what we do, our Mission Statement from our Bylaws, Board of Directors meetings, and other information of interest about the Saranap Homeowners Organization.

The **Information** page is about the Saranap community. Did you know that there is a set of CC&R's (Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions) for building in Saranap? You can read the about CC&R's that relate to your property, how and where to get a copy of your CC&R's, and more information about CC&R's. There are links to zoning

districts and the tracts, developments, and subdivisions in Saranap. We also have information about where you can dispose of household waste including batteries and unneeded medications. There's also a link to our CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) page.

The **History** page has some interesting information about the name "Saranap" and how it was founded. You'll find a link to the Contra Costa Library where you can reserve Dorothy M. Ligda's book *Saranap, Then and Now* which covers the earliest history of Saranap up through 2006, and is fascinating to read.

Electronic versions of our newsletters will be posted on the **Newsletters** page (including this newsletter you are reading now).

The **Contacts** page has our mailing address and email addresses for writing the Board of Directors, the webmaster of www.saranap.org, and for general information and questions. There's also a list of the members of our Board of Directors.

The **CERT** page tells about Saranap neighbors working with others in the greater Walnut Creek community to provide first responder aid in an emergency like an earthquake through the Community Emergency Response

Team program. There's information about how to take CERT training and how to become active in this important effort. The Saranap Homeowners Organization actively supports CERT, and encourages all Saranap residents to become familiar with CERT and to take CERT training.

Finally, the **Join Us!** page has a membership application that you can print and mail to join or renew your membership in the Saranap Homeowners Organization.

Some of our pages have links to documents, maps, pictures, and other websites. These links open a new tab so you'll always be able to return to www.saranap.org.

The www.saranap.org website is updated on a regular basis to include the latest information about our Saranap neighborhood.

We also have a Twitter feed that you can follow at [twitter/saranapupdate](https://twitter.com/saranapupdate). There's a Twitter link on each of the pages on our website.

We hope you've enjoyed this tour of our website, and now that you know more about it stop by and see what's new and keep up with the various projects being proposed for our neighborhood.

www.saranap.org

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Saranap Homeowners Organization is to monitor proposed development in the Saranap area and adjacent neighborhoods, to participate in the public planning, zoning and approval processes of appropriate agencies in order to encourage low-density zoning that is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood use, and provide design guidance

for architectural styles that blend with the immediate neighborhood.

The goals are to help preserve the established residential character of the Saranap area, preserve the area as semi-rural, and limit the expansion of higher-density development throughout the Saranap area and adjacent neighborhoods.

THIS ISSUE

Saranap Homeowners Organization
Newsletter
Volume 1 Issue 1

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Saranap Homeowners Organization
PO Box 2272
Walnut Creek, CA 94595-0272



How Can You Help?

BY RON OGG

“What Can I Do to Help the Saranap Homeowners Organization?”

We often hear this question from SHO members, and there's a simple answer: Talk to homeowners in Saranap, your neighbors, your friends, your acquaintances, and ask them to join the Saranap Homeowners Organization and join us in supporting the semi-rural neighborhood where we live.

It's easy, just tell them to go to www.saranap.org and click on the **Join Us!** tab.

Are You a Photographer?

Have you taken photographs of our Saranap neighborhood that you'd like to share on the Saranap Homeowners Organization website? If so, send your digital photos to webmaster@saranap.org and we'll put them on our Photos page. Include a brief caption about the photo, including approximately when it was taken. Also be sure to include your name and phone number so we can include a copyright statement, and contact you if we have any questions.

Please, only digital photos that you or a family member have taken, and that you give us permission to post on our website.





SPRING 2010

For information about the Saranap Homeowners Organization visit us on the web, on twitter, or email us with your questions or concerns regarding Saranap.

Stay updated!

Web: www.saranap.org

Twitter: twitter.com/saranapupdate

Email: info@saranap.org

Saranap is the unincorporated area of Contra Costa County between Lafayette and Walnut Creek, south of Highway 24 and west of Highway 680. The Saranap Homeowners Organization was founded in 2009 to give Saranap homeowners a true independent voice dedicated to preserving and fostering the established character and quality of Saranap as a semi-rural low density, residential neighborhood.

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