

# 10 Years

In 2006, South Vista Communities incorporated as a non-profit organization to preserve and enhance the quality of life for residents and businesses in the neighborhoods south of the 78.

SVC recognizes the elected and appointed officials of the City of Vista as valuable and essential *partners* in accomplishing common goals for our shared quality of life, and greatly appreciates their interest and assistance.

SVC has considered and commented upon proposals and problems relating to land use issues, traffic and safety, and environmental concerns. We're pleased to co-host candidate election-year forums with Shadowridge Owners Association, and celebrate the many improvements to our community, such as new sidewalks, better lighting, and the beautiful Kites Over Vista.

**We welcome new members and subscriptions (no fee) to our newsletter** — please consider forwarding this to a friend or neighbor who might be interested.

SVC's ten-year record of accomplishment can be found on pages 3-4.

Many thanks to all of you, and City officials and staff, who have made this such a rewarding decade.

## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

There are two items on the City Council agenda for Tuesday, March 8, of interest to South Vista.

- One is an all-way stop control (stop sign) at the intersection of Lupine Hills Drive / Chaparral Drive. This was heard by the Traffic Commission last fall. The proposal includes traffic-calming striping near Thibodo Park, curve warning signs, and a digital display speed sign.
- The other, proposed by Council member Cody Campbell, is discussion of a zoning change for a potential mini-storage location on South Melrose, on the west side of Melrose just north of the border with Oceanside.

The meeting on March 8 is at 5:30 p.m. in City Council chambers.



## MORE GOOD NEWS



A second section of sidewalk has been installed along the west side of Sycamore Avenue, south from Watson Way, with the eventual goal to meet up with an existing sidewalk north of Green Oak Road.

This another great improvement for pedestrian safety in this area. Many thanks to Greg Mayer and Vista's Public Works Dept. for getting this done.

And grateful thanks to Jessica Farrell, Code Compliance Dept., for a successful conclusion to a two-year effort to have the rampant undergrowth along Buena Creek (Shadowridge Plaza) cleared out. Not only will this make it easier for the Buena Creek clean-up in September, it will assist sheriff's deputies in dealing with transients who hide in the (formerly) thick vegetation.

## VISTA CERT TRAINING

The Vista Fire Dept., in conjunction with Palomar College, is pleased to offer emergency response training to residents and employees within the City of Vista.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness



for hazards that *Cont.* →

## HERE WE GO AGAIN

An article in the February 14 issue of the *Union-Tribune* brought the unwelcome news that BGT Media has resubmitted a proposal for a digital billboard on the north side of SR 78 at Rancho Del Oro Drive in Oceanside.

This is virtually on Vista's doorstep and, if approved, would absolutely be the nose of the camel for a parade of digital billboards along the 78.



*Is this the future we want for the 78?*

This will utterly destroy the visual quality of the 78 and, as numerous studies have shown, will prove dangerous to drivers by distracting them, as well as impacting wildlife with too much ambient light.

No amount of revenue from the billboards can compensate for this permanent damage.

An environmental impact report will be prepared in about six months.

In the meantime, please contact Oceanside City Council members and Mayor Wood at <http://www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/gov/council/default.asp> to express your opinion about the billboards and hope they will keep the 78 free of digital billboards for the future. [Council members Lowery, Sanchez, and Feller were the "nay" votes last June.]

## VISTA CERT TRAINING *(cont.)*

may impact them. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

The next training class in Vista begins on April 13, 2016 and meets for 8 weeks on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. The class will meet at the Public Safety Training Center at 184 Santar Place, San Marcos with the final disaster simulation on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. Each class is taught by Vista Fire Department personnel.

If you are interested in attending the training or would like more information please contact Chief Ned Vander Pol at [nvanderpol@ci.vista.ca.us](mailto:nvanderpol@ci.vista.ca.us), 760-310-0217. You can also register by contacting Sandy Hopkins at the Vista CERT [sandy.hopkins@vistacert.org](mailto:sandy.hopkins@vistacert.org), 760-214-3583.

You can also go directly to the Vista CERT website, [www.vistacert.org](http://www.vistacert.org) for much more information about CERT.

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- **Engraved pavers kick-off event** for "Freedom's Struggle" sculpture — Wed. March 16, 4-6 p.m., 335 Main Street, Vista. 760-458-8722 or [Marie@StagedHomesRealEstate.com](mailto:Marie@StagedHomesRealEstate.com).
- **Woman's Club of Vista Centennial Celebration** — Sunday, April 17, 2-5 p.m. Keynote speaker: Dr. Karen Haynes, President, CSUSM. For information: 760-470-3568 or [wcvista100@gmail.com](mailto:wcvista100@gmail.com).
- **South Vista Communities / Shadowridge Owners Assoc. candidates' forum** — Sept. 29, 7 p.m., Shadowridge Country Club.
- **Buena Creek area clean-up**, in collaboration with the City of Vista and I Love a Clean San Diego — September (date TBD).

### TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Join us in keeping Vista a special place to live. Visit our website [www.southvistacommunities.org](http://www.southvistacommunities.org) to find our membership form or simply to sign up for our email information and updates.

#### SOUTH VISTA COMMUNITIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President -	Stephanie Jackel	Creekside
Secretary -	Barbara Boyer	Carriage Hill
Treasurer -	Nicki Hobson	Montaire/Casielos
At Large -	Kathy Bagwell	Shadowridge



[www.southvistacommunities.org](http://www.southvistacommunities.org)  
[southvistacommunities@cox.net](mailto:southvistacommunities@cox.net)

## Accomplishments 2006—2016

### **South Vista Communities was established in 2006**

SVC was preceded by a group called the Shadowridge Action Committee, which in 2005 took a lead role in bringing attention to the proposed Robertson cement batch plant in the Vista Business Park. Thankfully, the City Council did not approve the cement plant.

Recognizing there are more neighborhoods in South Vista than only Shadowridge, South Vista Communities was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in May 2006, to represent all neighborhoods south of the 78 – some 23 of them.

SVC is dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for all South Vista residents. It provides a forum for those interested in sharing their concerns and working together to improve our community.

SVC recognizes the elected and appointed officials of the City of Vista as valuable and essential *partners* in accomplishing common goals for our shared quality of life, and greatly appreciates their interest and assistance.

### **Election and land use issues**

Through public meetings and a newsletter, SVC provides informational discussions of pending election and zoning issues.

- Forums for all Vista City Council candidates prior to elections

- Discussions of proposed facilities such as Enviropel (generating electricity from burning green waste), the RV-boat storage park at Melrose and Sycamore, the Hyatt and Marriott hotels, the new Target center on Business Park Drive

- Supported Shadowridge Owners Assoc. in opposing a special use permit for a large family day-care facility (up to 14 children), which was finally denied by City Council.

### **Traffic and safety**

Successfully requested stop signs for traffic safety at Chaparral Drive and Thibodo Road and at Lupine Hills and Miramar.

A request for a three-way stop sign at Live Oak and Shadowridge Drive was finally approved, after ten years' of trying, in September 2013.

We welcomed the new fire station #5 on So. Melrose into South Vista in 2009 – and a traffic light much desired by residents, at So. Melrose and Green Oak Road.

City Traffic Engineer Sam Hasenin met with concerned parents about traffic and pedestrian safety at Breeze Hill School, and instituted some welcome improvements.

## **Environmental concerns**

Every other year, SVC organizes a clean-up of the Buena Creek area along Sycamore and Shadowridge, in conjunction with the City and I Love a Clean San Diego; literally tons of trash are picked up.

In 2006, City officials and staff walked through the Sycamore/Shadowridge retail area with SVC representatives and identified a number of instances of dead trees, dead or missing landscaping, untrimmed palm trees, crumbling parking surfaces, etc. Since then, we have worked with our heroes in Code Enforcement to maintain the visual quality of life in this area.

In 2010, thanks to former Vista Beautification Commissioner Leslie Jantz' persuasive powers, the City installed street lights, curbs and gutters, and landscaping along Thibodo Road between Mar Vista Drive and the Corporate Center building. It transformed that entrance to our community. SVC partnered with the City to accept donations for the first-year maintenance of the landscaping.

SVC rallied Vista residents to oppose two double-faced electronic billboards proposed by the City for SR-78. Sufficient letters, asking significant questions about the impacts of the billboards on Vista's community character, were submitted to require a full EIR; the project was cancelled in July 2013.

Since 2013, SVC has investigated increased noise levels from airplanes using new approach paths to Palomar-McClellan Airport, due to the new NextGen technology. We have met several times with representatives of the FAA (notably non-responsive) and the airport (not able to be helpful). We will continue to pursue an answer.

After years of SVC's requesting better lighting at the Shadowridge Plaza shopping center, in 2014 new LED lights were installed, making a huge difference in shoppers' safety and comfort.

Two other long-time wishes granted, thanks to the Public Works Dept., were two segments of sidewalk installed from Shadowridge Plaza south along Sycamore Avenue in 2015-16, and another along Melrose Drive from Ralph's center to Sunset Drive, in 2014.

## **Our community**

SVC has been honored to host a number of our elected officials as speakers at our community meetings; we appreciate the information they bring to us.

Starting in 2011, SVC began honoring residents and City staff annually who have really made a difference in South Vista's quality of life with our "Above and Beyond" awards.

To our great pleasure, three of the "Kites Over Vista" – a program of the City's Arts Commission – were installed in South Vista in 2015.