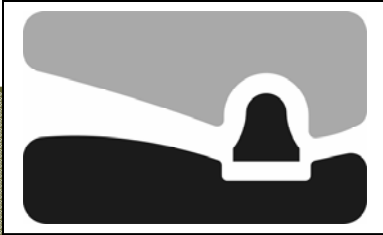


February 2008

# Neighborhood Services Team Newsletter



## City Calling Guide:

### Problem: Call:

Parks/ Restroom Problems	
Broken Play Equipment	781-7220
Disabled Cars	781-7066
Parking in Yards	
Illegal Burning	781-7380
Overgrown Weeds	
Sewer Back-up	781-7220
Excessive Odor	
Converted Garage	781-7180
Illegal Occupancy	
Loose Animals	781-7440
Noisy Animals	
Noise Complaints:	781-7317
Recycling	781-7217
Water Conservation	
RV's used as	781-7180
Residences	
Debris in Yard	781-7186
Storage in Yard	
Water Meter Leak	781-7220
Main Water Leak	
Graffiti:	783-7867

## Parks & Recreation

Doug Carscaden

**Bob Jones Bike Trail**  
On Friday February 15<sup>th</sup> the City of San Luis Obispo had it grand opening its section of the BJBT located by Prado Rd and San Luis Cr. Currently the path is about one mile in length with lots of information signs along the way. In the future the path will continue south and have a bridge the crosses Prefumo Cr and will eventually connect with the Avila Beach section of the Bob Jones Bike Trail.

**Stenner Springs Open Space – Trail Reroute**  
The City Park Rangers and local mountain bike club CCCMB have teamed up for the flagging of a new trail which will wind users through this small but beautiful open space that links up with the Cities other properties on the West Cuesta Ridge. The new trail will be about a ½ mile in length and have 2 bridges across the head waters of Stenner Creek. This new trail will be low maintenance and safer for uses do to its design and layout.

**Ranger Lead Hikes**  
March 16<sup>th</sup> Bowden Ranch Open Space  
April 13<sup>th</sup> Irish Hills @ Madonna Trailhead  
May 11<sup>th</sup> Reservoir Canyon Open Space  
June 22<sup>nd</sup> Islay Hill Open Space  
July 13<sup>th</sup> Cerro San Luis Open Space

**Jr. Ranger Camp**  
June 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>  
Kids will enjoy a bit of classroom style instruction combined with outdoor hands on learning. Lessons pertaining to native flora and fauna, habitat conservation, environmental ethics, and resource conservation will be taught utilizing Sinsheimer Park. At the completion of the five day session, campers will be awarded a Jr. Ranger certificate. Camp hours are 9am – 2pm.



### MISSION STATEMENT:

The Neighborhood Services Team is comprised of representatives from various city departments who work collaboratively with residents and community based groups in an effort to promote communications, support the City of San Luis Obispo's General Plan, and foster neighborhood enhancement and well-being.

## Police Department - Ardith Tregenza

Well, 2008 is moving quickly it seems. The San Luis Obispo Police Department (SLOPD) recently ran a new series of New Year Resolution themed ads in the Mustang Daily and New Times newspapers, targeting the local student population. The ads encouraged students to get to know their neighbors, bring in their trash cans, avoid noise violations (and the significant fines associated with noise citations), keep their landscaping up, get rid of junk in their yard and reminded them that there are also expensive fines for urinating in public.

The ads also directed students to SLOPD's newer student oriented website [respectslobro.com](http://respectslobro.com). SLOPD has also been advertising the website on the popular student social networking "Facebook" website. SLOPD has also produced a new So You're Moving Off Campus brochure for students. This brochure has been well received since it's inception a couple of years ago but has been recently updated to include the new website and more information. It also covers noise, parking, trash can removal and other neighborhood quality of life issues. This brochure along with the new Noise and updated Good Neighbor

brochures, are on the Neighborhood Services page of the SLOPD website at [www.slopd.org](http://www.slopd.org). SLOPD's Daily Activity Log is also posted each morning on the website.

SLOPD along with the City Fire Department hosted a Child Seat Checkup on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> at the Madonna Plaza. Both departments along with the CHP inspected and properly installed child car seats. The event coincided with national Child Passenger Safety Week and focused on the need for proper child car seat installation to safely transport children. The checkup was free of charge and was well received with over 60 vehicles checked.

### SNAP Update

Student Neighborhood Assistance Program (SNAP) employees are part time student employees of SLOPD. The SNAPs have a variety of duties including responding to noise complaints on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, enforcing parking in the neighborhood parking districts on weekday nights, enforcement of Neighborhood Enhancement Ordinances (NEO) and various clerical duties. SNAPs are full time students who undergo a rigorous hiring process, including a full background

investigation and a training program that usually lasts three to four months. The SNAPs have been busy with parking enforcement, writing a total of 1,998 parking citations for the 2007 calendar year.

SNAP NEO duties address neighborhood blight issues including graffiti, debris, household furniture or appliances in front yards, lawn longer than 12", trash cans left out, vehicles parked on lawns, etc. The SNAPs have recently increased their NEO efforts with 3 SNAPs now working NEO instead of the 1 SNAP previously responsible. SNAPs are now performing NEO duties in a new zone deployment in order to better familiarize themselves with the neighborhoods they serve. This enables the SNAPs to be proactive instead of responding on just a complaint driven basis. If you want to report a possible NEO violation, please call 781-7312.

The SNAPs, along with a large contingent of University Police Dept. Community Service Officers (student employees) distributed 2,500 Mardi Gras door hangers in the

See "POLICE" on page 5

## Code Enforcement – Gene Gailey

Our department has recently expanded! We continue to report to the Building & Safety Department's Chief Building Official, former Code Enforcement Officer Tim Girvin – and have added a new code enforcement officer. Her name is Sabrina Haggie, and she comes to us from Public Works department. Our added resource is in response to our citizen's requests for utilizing a portion of the Measure Y tax increase revenue for code enforcement. Over past months, we've worked closely with stakeholders throughout our organization identifying key issues and objectives, establishing a neighborhood wellness work plan. In April, 2008, the City's Neighborhood Services Team will again conduct a meeting open to the public, in which we will, as a step towards approval of the draft plan, present the goals and direction that we've established. Goals include:

- Increase code enforcement activities in order to enhance neighborhood wellness and community appearance
- Handle increased case management activities such as fewer days to perform initial

- investigation and processing of notice of violation letters
- Development of violation prevention programs, cross-training of City personnel and community educational outreach programs
- Coordination with commercial neighborhoods and enhance outreach efforts in order to maintain good visual quality of these areas within the City.

In reviewing some of the recent statistics in our efforts to identify key issues, we've found that code enforcement activities that highly impact neighborhood quality include investigating violations such as garage conversions, conversions of other structures (such as storage buildings) and Uniform Housing Code violations. Of the 489 code violation investigations conducted during 2007, 58 fell into the above categories, and consisted of 32 alleged garage conversions, 3 conversions of other structures and 23 complaints regarding substandard living conditions. These are just a few of the figures we will be striving to lower through our educational outreach programs.

We will also continue to work closely with code enforcement-type staff from other City departments, Cal Poly and Cuesta College staff and students, and SLO Solutions, a non-profit cost-free mediation service available to our city's citizens. Together, over the years, we have built a strong partnership in our efforts to achieve a safe, clean and efficient city. Sabrina and I are looking forward to the new challenges that the added position brings to the City, and we'll strive to make improvements to the process of enforcing city regulations, in a fair, effective and consistent manner.



Sabrina Haggie  
Code Enforcement Officer



## Transportation Division – Chris Overby

In November our City Traffic Engineer left employment with the City. His absence reduced the number of staff hours that could be spent on neighborhood-related transportation issues, however, significant accomplishments were still made as detailed below:

Neighborhood Traffic Management (NTM) Eighteen (18) neighborhoods actively pursued the preparation of Neighborhood Traffic Management (NTM) Plans for their neighborhoods. Because so many neighborhoods are requesting NTM projects staff developed a method for prioritizing the projects. The criteria includes traffic speeds, volumes, presence or absence of continuous sidewalks, bicycle facilities, collisions, and presence of schools or other activity centers.

Radar Trailer A new portable solar powered radar activated speed trailer was purchased to use for NTM neighborhoods and other streets with traffic concerns. The radar speed trailer can be temporarily be set up and can easily be moved from one location to the next. To request the radar trailer

please call the Transportation Hotline at 781-7190.

Johnson Avenue Solar powered radar-activated speed display signs were installed on Johnson Avenue between Bishop Street and Laurel Lane. The speed display signs were installed to display driver speed in contrast to the posted speed limit (35 mph). Four radar signs, costing over \$4,000 each, were partially funded through a grant obtained by the Police Department from the California Office of Traffic Safety. The two remaining signs will be installed on Santa Rosa Street between Monterey Street and Walnut Street in Summer 2008.

Ella Street at Johnson Avenue The signalization of the Johnson & Ella traffic intersection has been completed.

The Bill Roalman Bicycle Boulevard The design of the final phase of the Bill Roalman Bicycle Boulevard on Morro Street is nearly complete. The design includes sidewalk bulb-outs and a traffic diverter. The bulb-outs included in the Original Concept Plan were shown on the side streets, with the increase of vehicle

traffic after the stop signs were switched from Morro to the side streets, the bulb-outs will be located on Morro Street. This will be done in an effort to discourage vehicle through traffic. A diagonal traffic diverter at Islay was shown in the Concept Plan to restrict through vehicle traffic while allowing bicycles to pass through. To maintain through traffic on the side streets and to reduce through traffic on Morro Street, a median style diverter is being designed for Buchon Street.

The Bicycle Boulevard will still allow vehicular access to the adjacent homes however the stop controls on the side streets give preference to bicycle traffic. The pavement stenciling indicates that bicyclists should ride in the middle of the lane, avoiding the “door zone” and indicating to motorists to expect bicycle traffic.

Railroad Safety Trail-Highway 101 to Foothill Boulevard. Construction of this section of bike path on the north side of the railroad is planned for this summer.

Railroad Safety Trail-Campus Way to Mustang Stadium. Construction of this section on the Cal Poly campus is planned for this

summer. Although not within the City limits and not a City project, this section is an important component of the Railroad Safety Trail and the City is thrilled with Cal Poly's commitment to construct it. The City will be working with Cal Poly to coordinate the two construction projects in hopes of receiving some costs savings if the two projects can be constructed at the same time.

Railroad Safety Trail- Foothill Boulevard to Campus Way (the 500-foot missing link) .

The "Monday" Rotary Club of San Luis Obispo has named its first "Clean and Green" project as this section of the City's Railroad Safety Trail. The Rotary Club has committed to making a donation to the City to be applied toward the safety fencing along the bike path and in the next few months they will be launching a fund raising campaign to finance the remainder of the unfunded section of the Railroad Safety Trail. The Rotary's fundraising effort will go a long way to raise awareness of the bike path and demonstrate the community's commitment to it.

Buena Vista & Garfield This construction documents for this project are being finalized with construction anticipated to start within the next couple of months. The realignment

will consist of curb, gutter, and sidewalk along Garfield, Buena Vista, and Monterey. The project also includes pedestrian access improvements including a pedestrian refuge island and marked crosswalk across Monterey.

South Street "Road Diet" The South Street Road Diet will be implemented as part of the State Route 227 Rehabilitation Project. Design is nearing completion and construction is scheduled to begin in May of 2008 and continue through November of 2008.

Santa Barbara Street Widening In Order to improve traffic conditions and maintain safety on Santa Barbara Street the City Council approved widening between South Street and High Street. Construction is scheduled to begin in February of 2008 and continue through July of 2008.

Orcutt Road Widening As part of the City Major goals the Council approved this project in order to relieve congestion and improve safety at the Rail Road Crossing. This project includes road widening, railroad crossing improvements, and signalization of the Laurel & Orcutt Intersection. Construction is scheduled to

begin in February of 2008 and continue through June of 2008.



**POLICE – Continued from Page 2**

neighborhoods surrounding Cal Poly, north and south of Foothill Blvd. and the Laguna Lake neighborhood a couple of weeks before Mardi Gras. They were real troopers, delivering in what seemed like unrelenting rain during the big storm that seemed to continue all 5 days they were going door to door. The door hangers, which thanked students for their previous support and cooperation, and warned them about increased law enforcement efforts during the upcoming Mardi Gras weekend, were similar to the ones used previously in the last several years and were once again met with a positive response from students.

If you would like to be included on a neighborhood information email list please email me at [atregenz@slocity.org](mailto:atregenz@slocity.org) or if you have any questions or concerns please contact me at 781-7186.



## Utilities Department – Doug Dowden & Ron Munds

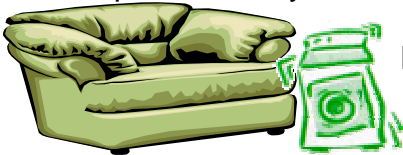
### Illegal Discards and Solid Waste Container Storage

As a member of the San Luis Obispo Community all of us are concerned about the aesthetic quality of our community. In order to maintain this quality, that all of us expect, the **Utilities Department has developed a pro-active program to deal with illegal disposal of solid waste along our streets and in vacant lots throughout town.** Items that are dumped along our streets and in vacant lots include furniture, refrigerators, washing machines, bags of trash and many other things. These items casually left along the streets and throughout the City of San Luis Obispo are unsightly and pose a significant risk to residents who for example have to walk out into a busy street in order to avoid a refrigerator in the sidewalk. As of December 1, 2007 staff have responded to and directed the removal of some 3,276 items dumped along our roadways and in vacant lots. With a little work the cost of the removal and disposal of the items were attributed 85% of the time back to the responsible party saving the City and residents of approximately \$200,000.00 in 2007 alone.



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Items placed out by the street or in the street are removed promptly and the responsible party is charged for the cost associated with the removal and disposal. If you happen to notice items placed or dumped along a street or in a vacant lot, give **Utilities Conservation staff a call at (805) 781-7213.**



If you need to **arrange for the pickup of extra items or large bulky items** (i.e. furniture, mattresses, appliances, extra bags of trash) then please contact **San Luis Garbage Company at (805) 543-0875** and they will schedule the collection of your extra discards for a nominal fee.



Similar to discards left on the street, **solid waste containers left out at curbside** day after day become a visual blemish to residential neighborhoods. Often, containers left out get knocked over resulting in trash and/or recyclable materials littering our beautiful streets. So, please consider the following:

- Solid waste and recycling containers **cannot be** stored/kept on a public right of way (i.e. the sidewalk or curbside) or within view from a public right-of-way.
- Solid waste containers **shall not** be placed adjacent to the street for pickup within a residential area more than twenty-four hours before pickup time.
- Solid waste containers shall be removed within the twelve-hour period following pickup.

If solid waste containers are left out at curbside for an extended period an Administrative Citation and fine of \$100.00 (one hundred dollars) can be issued against the identified responsible party. Please do your part in keeping San Luis Obispo beautiful for all of us, thanks!



## Parking Department – Robert Horch

### Parking Lot 9

The resurfacing and repainting of Parking Lot 9 next to the Carnegie Library has just been completed. As part of our on-going capital improvement program, we resurface and repaint parking facilities periodically.

### New Uniforms

Our parking structure attendant uniforms have been updated to reflect a more positive and helpful image. They are now in polo shirts with new name tags.

### Downtown Parking Options

There are several options for those who work and visit downtown. Some of these have been in place for years and are still very good options for those who park in the downtown area.

- a) **Meter Cash Keys** are like debit cards for the parking meters. You can pre-program an amount of money on one. Then use it at any meter to add incremental time on the meter and it deducts the appropriate amount of time from the key. The great thing is that you don't worry about having
- enough change for the meter.
- b) **Validation Program**, several downtown businesses will validate your parking in any of the City parking structures. By shopping in their business they will provide you with a token or coupon that you present to the attendant when you exit for a free hour in the structure. So you really get 2 hours of free parking, the first hour on the City and the second with your validation.
- c) **Gold Pass**. Downtown employees qualify for a free bus pass that allow them to ride the City's bus for free. This program is funded by Parking Services and it helps alleviate parking demand and downtown traffic.
- d) **10-Hour Meter Permits** can be purchased for a month or quarter. You place a static cling permit in your car window and can park at any 10-hour meter downtown without paying. This is one of the most cost effective ways of parking downtown at \$40 a month.
- e) **Monthly Passcards** can be purchased for any of our parking structures. You pay a quarterly fee and you get a pass that opens the entry and exit gates. You don't have to take the time to pull a ticket or pay at the exit. You just place your pass at the sensor and the gate opens.

For more information on any of these programs contact the parking office at 781-7230.

### Old Town Residential Parking District

The City mailed out 891 surveys. Only 24% responded with 71% opposed and 29% in favor of moving forward with a residential permit parking district at this time. Due to these results the district cannot move forward, so staff will be taking this to City Council to ask for direction. The meeting is currently scheduled for April 1, 2008.

