

April 18, 2005 General Meeting Summary

by Art Maurice

This had to be the funniest general meeting ever. As you signed in you got a bingo card with street names on it. Then you would mingle with other people at the meeting and find out what street they live on. You would check this off on your bingo card and once you got a bingo you would turn your card in. The winning bingo card was randomly picked from all the bingo cards turned in. The prize was a \$50 gift certificate to a jewelry store at Valley Fair.

Megan Doyle spoke first about the airline America West breaking curfew by flying a 50-seat jet from Las Vegas to San Jose at 1:30 AM. She told us the flight is legal because the noise level is within the restrictions for the time but Councilman Ken Yeager is against it because it will encourage other airlines to follow suit.

Paul Vezinaw, a Cory resident, asked that we support our neighborhood businesses in particular the Ace Hardware store at Winchester and Pruneridge. The convenience of a neighborhood hardware store is worth the small increase in price over the big box stores.

Carrie Holmberg and Erin Green gave us an update on the closing of Cory school. The re-use conditions from the 7/11 committee were described as well as the types of groups being considered as tenants for the school property.

Werner Field told the next tree planting would happen May 7 and he has a couple openings for residents who want a tree. People signed up after the meeting.

Ken Braly, filling in for Toni Sindelar, gave a brief update on the street captains committee and said there were still some blocks available for street captains. Please contact Toni or Ken if you are interested.

Jay Orlando said there would be another Traffic committee meeting on May 25.

Elizabeth Leonard announced the yard sale would happen again this year on June 25. It was such a success last year and plots are filling up. If you are interested please contact Elizabeth.

There will be a dumpster day this year on July 23. We are looking for volunteers to man the dumpsters and houses to put the dumpsters in front of. If you would like a dumpster in front of your house (makes the trip a lot shorter) or to be a volunteer please contact Kevin Smith.

Elizabeth then went on to talk about the Crime/graffiti happening in the neighborhood and what you should do if you see it happening. Your first call should be to the police and then to the San Jose Graffiti line.

Our main speaker was Sharon McCray who told us about the history of BAREC (Bay Area Research and Extension Center). She had some delightful stories and then went on to say what the Santa Clara City Council was trying to do with it. Most notable was her opposition to SB 747 which is going through the state government for approval. She instructed us to call or write Elaine Alquist opposing SB 747 and to keep BAREC open.

Last we had a panel of residents who had block parties and how they got started. They gave us tips on how to get the permit to block the street, what ideas they had for their parties and what works and what doesn't work.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm and finished off the cookies and lemonade.

Mmmmm...cookies!