

Views from the Terrace

CTRA Board Tackling Ongoing Issues and Opportunities

Traffic Calming Trial Update

The next step in the College Terrace traffic calming trial that began last December is for the City to conduct a series of speed and volume counts on interior streets as well as Stanford and California Avenues. This will take place before the end of October.

Data from these counts and all the input received from residents will be included in the City's evaluation of the trial plan involving six speed tables and 5 traffic circles approved by the City Council in November 2004.

Engineers will be studying how effective these physical measures have been in reducing previous excessive speeds and cut-through traffic. The relative safety for all street users (pedestrians, cyclists and drivers) will also be given high priority in the evaluation.

A neighborhood meeting will be held in January for discussion of draft recommendations, prior to the formal review by the Council.

For more information on the trial plan, please see the traffic calming links on the main CTRA home page (www.ctra.org). To get involved in working to solve traffic issues in our neighborhood, contact board@ctra.org.

Parking Issues Update

On August 6, the City Council voted 5-2 to authorize staff to assess the feasibility of residential permit parking in College Terrace. The Council vote also directed staff to include at least two community meetings and a

postcard survey of all College Terrace residences. Staff is to return with recommended actions within a year.

What does this mean for our neighborhood? For residents on blocks where street parking is largely occupied by the cars of non-residents (either during the day or 24/7), it is a welcome step toward the goal of finding a solution to a difficult problem.

However, the CTRA board is strongly committed to finding a solution that works without imposing a "one size fits all" solution on blocks where parking spaces are plentiful or not perceived as a serious problem.

For lots more information or to participate in finding workable solutions for our neighborhood, see: www.ctra.org/parking/

Issues & Opportunities 2007

Continuing a tradition begun in the 2001 City Council campaign season, the CTRA's elected Board of Directors has issued an updated document outlining significant issues related to planning, transportation and land use in our neighborhood and the immediate surrounding area.

This has proven to be an effective way to educate many Council candidates who are unfamiliar with the special issues affecting our neighborhood and other parts of the city west of the train tracks.

The 2007 edition of Issues and Opportunities is now available on the front page of the CTRA web

site (www.board@ctra). Previous editions may be found by clicking on the Association link.

Paper copies of the Board's 2007 Issues and Opportunities document will be available at Saturday's Ice Cream event and in the College Terrace Library.

JOIN NEIGHBORS ON OCT. 13 & OCT. 18

CTRA ICE CREAM AND CANDIDATE SOCIAL

Enjoy ice cream and a great chance to get to know the candidates for 4 slots on the Palo Alto City Council and 3 slots on the PAUSD Board of Education.

Saturday 10/13, 2-4 p.m.

Mayfield Park
(outside the College Terrace
Library on Wellesley St.)

INFO MEETING ON COLLEGE TERRACE CENTRE PROJECT

Find out what's proposed for the redevelopment of the block that includes JJ&F Market. The developer and architect for this project invite us to learn more about this project and provide input. Light refreshments served.

Thursday 10/18, 7-9 p.m.

Scott's Seafood Grill and Bar
(go to the Peninsula Room)
Town & Country Shopping Ctr.
(El Camino Real & Embarcadero)

See What You're Missing -- Subscribe to CTRA Enews!

Don't miss out on neighborhood related news between hard-copy newsletters – join CTRA's low-volume, high value news list.

➡ **To sign up, send an email with your name and address to: CTRAEditor@yahoo.com**

Upcoming Community Meetings On Stanford Projects

Mark your calendars now for two opportunities to participate in community discussions about Stanford's plans to expand its Medical Center and Shopping Center. Two meeting dates will focus on different sets of impacts:

Thu. 10/18: Sustainability & open space
Thu. 11/1: Transportation & linkages

TIME: 6:30 pm informal information available; main program 7:00 pm

WHERE: Palo Alto High School, Main Library (Library is off of the grass area in middle of campus, look for signs.)

More info on projects:

<http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/knowzone>
Questions? Contact Steven Turner, Senior Planner at 329-2155.

VTA & City of Palo Alto Launch Community Bus Study

The bad news: In January, the county transportation agency (VTA) will be changing to a new route for its Route 88 bus, which eliminates service to the Research Park and California Avenue.

But thanks to widespread protest, the VTA decision makers also approved Palo Alto's proposal for a Community Bus Study. The goal is to bring all the transit operators in Palo Alto and Stanford area to the table to consider options that will better serve existing and future demand for bus and shuttle service.

All interested residents are invited to come to the first public input meeting for the Community Bus Study:

When: Tue. 10/23, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Where: Jordan Middle School Cafetorium (750 N. California).

➡ **Want to get involved? Send an email to: CTRAEditor@yahoo.com**

TIPS FOR NEIGHBORS

Use Caution and Stay Safe

Last week a neighbor was walking her dog about 11 pm and rounded the corner from Stanford Ave to Dartmouth St. A man wearing a hooded jacket leapt over the low fence in her front yard and walked away. The Police Department was alerted the following morning.

This is a good reminder to lock your doors and close your curtains at night. Also, report suspicious activity right away. Call 329-2413 anytime (only use 9-1-1 for emergencies).

Be Kind to Pedestrians and Children Walking to School

Many children in our neighborhood walk or bike to school. Be a good neighbor and make it easier and safer for them by trimming any vegetation that is encroaching on sidewalk space.

NOTE: Palo Alto's municipal code requires that residents keep the full width of sidewalks free from encroaching tree branches and shrubs, up to seven feet.

Also be sure to keep the greenery trimmed so that you can see walkers when backing out of your driveway. And if you live on a corner lot, ensure that the plants in the planting strip are less than three feet tall, so that children crossing the street can see and be seen. Thanks from all who walk on neighborhood sidewalks!

Vehicles left over 72 hours

If there's a strange vehicle lurking on your street, call the PAPD's Abandoned Vehicle Hotline at 329-2258 to make a report anytime. Have available: location, description of the vehicle, license plate info, and how long it has been parked.

If non-resident parking is a growing problem on your street, get involved in finding a workable solution by sending an email to parking@ctra.org

Views From the Terrace is produced by the College Terrace Residents' Association Board of Directors.

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And Now a Brief Word From Our President. . .

On behalf of this year's elected CTRA Board of Directors, I'd like to welcome all new residents and invite everyone to participate in keeping College Terrace a special place to live. A few suggestions:

Get informed: Come to the Ice Cream and Candidates Social this Saturday (details on the front page). You'll not only become a more informed voter, but you can also meet CTRA board members and give us feedback on the Board's 2007 Issues and Opportunities statement. And be sure to sign up for CTRAnews, our biweekly neighborhood enews list.

Get involved: We can't promise fame or fortune, but you'll meet great people and might even have some fun when you step up to help make good things happen in our neighborhood. Current top needs are:

- Newsletter editor: A resident with design, copy editing and layout experience who can transform text into a good looking newsletter.
- A resident willing to serve on the Advisory Group for Community Bus Study (see article on left).
- Residents with energy to contribute to existing committees dealing with our traffic calming trial, parking issues, or planning social events.

Donate: CTRA does not assess dues, but voluntary contributions are much appreciated. Donations of any amount are welcome (\$20 per household is suggested). Please make checks payable to College Terrace Residents' Association. Deliver by mail or in person to treasurer Larry Kavinoky, 2091 Cornell St.

To get involved, contact the board at board@ctra.org or at neighborhood events. You may also send a letter c/o Larry Kavinoky at the address above. I look forward to hearing from you!

-- Greg Tanaka