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From your 2019 Board (pictured from left to right:) **Kevin Jensen, President, Mo Vemulapalli, Vice President, Marianne Landis, Tracy Brotze, William Morrison, Jim Strehlow, and Beth DeGolia.**

This printed and mailed newsletter should be the last newsletter mailed. We will still mail a yearly notice and billing; but we will only e-mail future news(letters.) Although many homeowners have provided e-mails to the Fernside Homeowners' Association, we want to use a third party service to deliver the news. We want you to "opt-in" if you want to sign up to the MailChimp service for our future newsletters. Either contact the editor at fhoa.news@gmail.com or use our website link at <https://www.fernsidehoa.com/contact>

If you do not have e-mail or Internet service, get to know a neighbor who does. If you do not use the Internet at home, the Alameda Public Library has free access during its hours of operation.

Intent: The board wants to be able to contact as many homeowners as possible economically and efficiently. Sending future e-mail newsletters to you is our current choice. Please contact a board member or our board president, Kevin Jensen, at fernsidehoa@gmail.com.

The board still supports NextDoor.com; but too many messages are not relevant to our geographic area.



Illuminating Changes For Fernside by William Morrison

The Fernside Home Owners' Association (HOA) board has been meeting with Alameda's Department of Public Works (DPW) to solve longstanding issues with street lights within the HOA area. Since the 1960s, Fernside's unique Town and Country lighting fixtures have been a signature and help to identify our neighborhood.

For DPW, the issue has been energy efficiency, reliability, and compatibility with other lighting systems on the island. A source for the Town and Country fixtures had to be found. For our HOA board, maintenance of the unique character of the area as well as chronic outages were issues to be addressed.

As of today, DPW will retain the Town and Country style street lights.

For efficiency and reliability, DPW will replace the high sodium lights with warm frequency LED lights.

Prototypes of the new LED lights have been installed as part of repairs to existing light poles with excellent results. Instead of 75 watts, the new lights use considerably less wattage and provide a better lighting footprint for both our streets and sidewalks.

DPW is also initiating a program to deal with outages by moving power supply from curbside laterals to the center of the street. Initial stages for construction are part of this year's budget before the City Council.

For more information, please refer to our Website. Send comments or ask questions via e-mail to my address at fernsidehoa@gmail.com.



Delinquent Property Assessments by William Morrison

The board will mail (scheduled to occur in September) notices to property owners whose assessments are delinquent (three years without payment.) That will give delinquent owners the chance to avoid a ten dollar (\$10) late fee which we will add to a property assessment for 2020 in December of 2019 for those who remain delinquent. For additional information on delinquent assessments, send an e-mail to fernsidehoa@gmail.com.



Gibbons Drive : trees, sidewalks, and curbs

by Jim Strehlow

The City of Alameda's Dept. of Public Works wants to have a consistent plan for the trees and sidewalks along Gibbons Drive. Public Works will schedule workshops for public input and recommendations.

The roots of the liquidamber trees regularly lift the sidewalk upwards or at angles. Concrete costs much more than asphalt. On average concrete lasts fifty (50) years while asphalt can last twenty (20) years before needing repairs. But the tree roots regularly disturb the sidewalks every ten (10) years. The City has recently been repairing the most dangerous (or the most reported) sidewalk sections with asphalt. Citizens have not been happy with the asphalt patches.

The liquidamber trees are very healthy and can live for hundreds of years. Many homeowners consider the liquidamber trees to be iconic for both Gibbons Drive and for the City of Alameda.

Public Works would like a two foot radius of space to allow room for the tree roots to expand.

That means two feet into the sidewalk (and maybe your front lawn) and two feet into the cement street curb.



The City does not want a case-by-case, citizen-by-citizen "do it this way for me" while another homeowner wants it "done another way for them."

The City also wants us to consider making Gibbons Drive a one way street toward downtown (into the City) so that the intersection of High Street, Fernside, and Gibbons Drive would become a "normal" four way intersection.

Public Works, instead, could just "bulb out" the curbing around the trees. There would be a loss of parking (probably over fifty percent (50%)) but Gibbons Drive would remain a two-way street. Drainage would remain a problem.

Several solutions/alternatives exist (in no particular order.)

A) "As is" is for Public Works to repair sidewalks with asphalt. No change to curbs or sidewalks. Curbs are bound to be irregular and broken. Sidewalks will remain "straight"

(not swerving) with the roots regularly raising sidewalk sections, destroying curbs, and reduce its "walkability".. Gibbons Drive would remain as a two way street. There would be no change at the High Street intersection.

B) "Radius cut with bulb outs" would repair sidewalks with cement cutting into sidewalks so that they swerve around tree trunks taking up some parts of a front lawn. Sidewalks would be more walkable. The curbs would "bulb out" into the street near trunks. We would lose approximately half (or more) of all parking spaces with spotty available parking spaces. There are significant drainage issues with that option; but Gibbons Drive already has such drainage problems. Gibbons Drive would remain a two way street. There would be no change at the High Street intersection.

C) "Radius cut, move curbs" would repair sidewalks with cement cutting into sidewalks so that they swerve around trunks taking up some parts of a front lawn. Sidewalks would be more walkable. Moving the curbs two feet into the roadway applies to either C1 or C2 options below. For C, further choose either :

C1) eliminate parking on one side of the street. There would be a fifty percent (50%) loss of parking spaces; but parking spaces would be dependably "regular." Gibbons Drive would remain a two way street. There would be no change at the High Street intersection.

C2) make Gibbons drive one-way toward downtown. Parking will remain on both sides of the street. The High Street intersection would have one less traffic signal delay (no vehicles entering from Gibbons Drive.) Many homeowners would have to travel three blocks or more to travel one block outbound (from downtown toward High Street) thus increasing road use of adjacent streets. Backup of waiting cars would increase at the Fernside and High intersection since cars that would normally wait along Gibbons Drive would thereafter wait along Fernside or High Street . . . particularly when the High Street Bridge opens.

D) Replace the liquidamber trees with smaller trees. There are no such plans. The trees are currently healthy. That is an option.

Alameda's Department of Public Works plans to hold public forum workshop(s) [this fall when trees are in their autumn glory] in order to attempt to obtain a clear plan for the future of Gibbons Drive for decades. That will help the City with yearly budgeting, maintenance planning, etc. Please pay attention to announcements of the workshops. We intend to notify homeowners in a timely manner via the new e-mail newsletter.



Participate!

by William Morrison

It's not too early to start thinking about our upcoming events. We would like you to attend National Night Out (Aug 6), decorate lampposts (Nov 30), and attend our Annual Meeting (Jan 14, 2020.) To be successful at each of those events we need volunteers. Maybe you want to join our board (meets monthly) or join our volunteers' list. No experience is required. Bring your skills to bare on issues that affect where you live.



Nearby transportation changes

by Jim Strehlow

The City plans to change the intersection of Blanding Ave/Fernside/Tilden Way near Bridgeside Center. One possibility is to remove the right hand turn lanes in all four directions because they are inconvenient to bicyclists.

Another nearby project will redesign the lanes on the Miller-Sweeney Bridge (to Fruitvale Avenue.) One recent discussion just restripes the lanes with a painted bike lane (no loss of any lanes.) But, if discussions arise to create a bus jump lane, that will take away one of the two existing lanes backing up traffic onto Fernside and adjacent streets. The bus jump lane is supposed to make it faster for a bus to get through traffic. One problem with that is there will be no matching bus jump lane in Oakland.

Both of those projects can affect daily traffic patterns in our neighborhood. The Alameda Transportation Commission meets mostly on the fourth Wednesday of odd months; but they have also scheduled additional meetings with just one week's advance notice on the Website alameda.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx. Thus, we might only have one week's notice of business related to the Fernside area if we read the agenda once a meeting is posted there. That is one of the reasons to have a method to contact you in a timely manner. But besides being notified, it is important for you to either attend such meetings in person or to send communiques to the commissioners and councilmembers. The final vote is always with the Alameda City Council. Your input at those votes will be important to the future of our neighborhood.



When trees and water do not mix

by Jim Strehlow

If your water line breaks and the break is a result of a City street tree, the City will work directly with East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) to move the meter. Then the City will reconnect the water line from the new EBMUD meter location to the house. If your water line leaks again in the future due to a street tree, contact the City's maintenance service center first. Alameda Public Works does not pre-emptively move the meters; but will respond in the case of a leak.

<https://www.alamedaca.gov/Departments/Public-Works>
phone: 510.747.7900 e-mail: pw@alamedaca.gov



Holiday Spirit in the Fernside

by Beth DeGolia

Decorating our unique lampposts brings holiday warmth to our neighborhood. With volunteers such as you we can decorate more blocks this year.



We will gather for coffee, treats, and a lamppost decoration demonstration. It is easy! It only takes a few minutes per lamppost. We will pass out ribbons and bows to those who need them. Find an unclaimed area of our neighborhood on our map. Decorate lampposts at your convenience. If you can't come, just contact me so that we can meet at another time.

Where: 1518 Gibbons Dr. When: **Sat. Nov. 30 at 10 a.m.** What to bring: Any bows and ribbons from previous years (if you have any.) When you decorate, you will need a six (6) foot ladder and a roll of scotch (or painter's) tape. Important: If you have lamppost decorations from previous years, please e-mail me a count at bdegolia@gmail.com



To download a full color version of this newsletter, go to our Website <https://www.fernsidehoa.com>, hover over **meetings-events-news** and select <news>. Right-click on **news201907.doc**, click on <Save link as>, then <Save> to download.



JOIN your Fernside neighbors to CELEBRATE

National Association of Town Watch's

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



with a **neighborhood block party**

When? Tuesday August 6, 2019

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Where? On Northwood Dr near the big intersection with Lincoln Ave

Fun! Refreshments*! Community!

* (e.g. cookies, cheese, crackers, fruit, flavored waters)

Children are invited

**Meet with Alameda Police at 6:30 PM,
CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), and others**

Special thanks to **Ruben & Beverly Ramirez** for the event location.

See some photos from last year's event at

<https://www.fernsidehoa.com/national-night-out>

The Fernside Homeowners' Association Board
organizes the event.

Please meet with us on August 6th to discuss
our newsletter and what is happening around Alameda.

For more information, contact your newsletter editor
Jim Strehlow at fhoa.news@gmail.com