
McKINLEY EASTSAC

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Winter 2010 Newsletter



Presidents Message By: Joe Chavez

2009 has been a very busy and successful year for MENA. The MENA Board of Directors worked very hard on behalf of our neighborhood through out the year. Our "The Homes of 38th Street" tour held last April was our most successful home tour ever! The homes were beautiful, the turnout was fabulous, and a good time was had by all. The proceeds raised from our home tour allowed MENA to make generous donations to several neighborhood causes, including McKinley Park's library, rose garden, and tennis courts resurfacing effort. We also made a donation to Stop and Smell the Roses, a special annual event for our neighborhood seniors, which takes place every May. Additionally, due to the city's budget cutbacks affecting public swimming pools, MENA donated funds and successfully lobbied Council Member Cohn to make a matching donation from Pops in the Park funds, to keep the McKinley Park swimming pool open this past Labor Day. 203 people enjoyed part of their Labor Day at the McKinley Park pool thanks to MENA's efforts. Funds from our home tour also enabled MENA to make donations to the Sutter Junior High School's Beautification Project, the American River clean up effort, and an East Sacramento sign project.

This past year MENA's Land Use Committee continues to diligently ensure neighborhood livability issues are addressed at City Hall concerning both large and small proposed development in East Sacramento. Our Land Use Committee members have spent much time and effort studying and lobbying on behalf of the neighborhood regarding the on again/off again proposed McKinley Village project at the Centrage site. Our Land Use Committee also continues to remind city officials of the need to take cumulative traffic impacts into consideration when analyzing proposed development in our neighborhood.

MENA's Neighborhood Safety Committee has worked with city officials in the Police, Code Enforcement, and Dangerous Housing departments to make sure they are responsive to crime and blighted housing issues within East Sacramento. Our efforts have lead to the improved condition of blighted and dilapidated vacant houses in the vicinity of 35th and J Streets.

Last but certainly not least, MENA's website, eastsac.org has been updated and is more aesthetically pleasing, user friendly, and interactive than ever before. One of the exciting changes to our website is that MENA has partnered with our local neighborhood watch group, EastSacWatch.com, by hosting and maintaining their website. With the MENA-EastSacWatch.com partnership, East Sacramento neighbors can now post information regarding suspicious or criminal activity directly onto the EastSacWatch link of MENA's website. This allows neighbors to get the word out about suspicious activity in our neighborhood much faster than ever before!

The year ahead looks to be full of equally good causes and challenges for M.E.N.A. to take on. M.E.N.A. has strived to give East Sacramento residents a greater voice regarding issues that affect our neighborhood since 1992. Our efforts over the years have lead M.E.N.A. to be one of Sacramento's most respected and effective neighborhood associations. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to become M.E.N.A. members, so our organization may continue to grow and increase our efforts to maintain East Sacramento as one of the city's most livable neighborhoods.

East Sacramento Parks

By: Valerie Roberts

This summer MENA heard that the Clunie pool in McKinley Park would have its services cut due to budget issues. The park service told MENA that it costs \$276.00 an hour to fund the Clunie pool. MENA and the city both gave \$500.00 to have the pool open on labor day, Monday September 7, 2009. A total of 203 people, (128 children, 75 adults), were able to enjoy the pool that day.

Bertha Henschel park – The neighbors have banded together to help support their park and have held many fund raising activities and have found volunteers to help with park support. If you want to know more about how you can support Bertha Henschel park please contact berthahenschel@gmail.com.

All East Sacramento parks – If you are interested in helping in any way, volunteer or to donate funds please contact Julie Mier in the City Parks department. (916) 808-2285.

McKinley Park Rose Garden – The roses in the rose garden are not in the best shape and The Sacramento Rose Society has been leading the charge to get new watering system and healthy roses planted. The last MENA heard from the city the memorials will not be moved, but any diseased plants would be removed and new plants planted in its place. Jason Davis with The Sacramento Rose Society has been working in the garden from May until the major pruning in early January. If you would like to know more about roses and to help with the rose He works in the garden Monday and Fridays from 8:00 – 11:00 am, but may be able to come to the garden on Saturday for training.

McKinley Park Tennis courts – Friends of McKinley Park Tennis is searching for donations to resurface the tennis court. If you would like to know more about this project please call (209) 483-8430.

Reasons Why You're a MENA Member

By John Home

Tis' the season to renew your MENA membership! Hopefully you're one of our many MENA faithful that will be dutifully renewing your membership soon. We thank you in advance for taking the time to do so. Please consider asking your neighbor or friend to do the same and join today! Reasons to renew, or join for the first time? What does MENA do for *me*? Hopefully you already know the answer, but there are many great things that MENA does each and every year on behalf of the East Sacramento community. The small annual membership fee of \$15 goes a long ways for you! MENA is a neighborhood association truly committed to our neighborhood, and it's our mission each year to do the best we can for East Sacramento. From many hours spent reviewing land use issues and evaluating potential projects for how they affect East Sac, to providing generous donations to our local schools and community projects, to meeting with local government as an advocate for our streets and tackling local issues, to providing a fabulous annual Home Tour showcasing our homes, to working hard on neighborhood safety and providing the popular *EastSacWatch* "watchdog" site, MENA does a lot for *you* and for the community a whole. Please renew today – it only takes a moment. We can't do it without our members!

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BIG MENA THANKS to Lynell Heaps

Lynell is MENA's volunteer who maintains the Welcome to East Sacramento Garden on the corner of McKinley Park at H Street and Alhambra. Make sure if you see Lynell out working in the garden to say hi and how much you appreciate the amazing job she does. Lynell keeps the garden looking great year round. Thanks Lvnell!

Join MENA's Board!

The nominating period to serve on the 11-person board of directors for the McKinley East Sacramento Neighborhood Association is now open and will close on February 14. Any member in good standing may make a nomination of another MENA member or themselves. To qualify, your 2010 membership dues must be paid by Valentine's Day, February 14.

All nominations must be in writing and in receipt of the MENA P.O. Box 160222, Sacramento, CA 95816 or email address, mena@eastsac.org, by the deadline.

Nominees will be listed on the ballot scheduled for distribution in March to all members in good standing. The election will be by mail. All voted ballots must be received at the MENA P.O. Box and post-marked no later than Saint Patrick's Day, March 17, to be counted.

MENA membership is available to any person who resides, is employed within or owns property or a business in the McKinley East Sacramento Neighborhood bordered by Business 80 on the west, the Southern Pacific railroad embankment on the north and Highway 50 on the south. Membership costs \$15 for residents and business's at only \$20.

Neighborhood Safety

By Patrick Gage

East Sacramento has had its share of crime recently; with our own councilmember's home burglarized, a cat burglar coming in through open windows in another part of east Sac while residents are home, items stolen off We want to highlight some ways to deter crime in our neighborhoods.

First, in May this year, the operators of EastSacWatch.com announced they would be shutting the neighborhood watch style website primarily due to the time required to maintain and improve the site. Recognizing this as a valuable resource, the MENA Board voted to request we continue operation of the site. The current operators agreed and MENA will begin maintaining the site. Please use it to report and learn about crime in east Sac. (<http://www.eastsacwatch.com/>)

Another way to deter criminals is to know your neighbors. On my street a neighbor assembled everyone's information, (phone numbers, e-mail address, car types and license numbers, etc) into a booklet and distributed it to everyone on the block. Find information on establishing your own neighborhood watch at: <http://www.sacpd.org/getinvolved/watch/>

MENA Board Meetings

The MENA board meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Shepard Garden Arts Center next to McKinley Park. All members are welcome to attend. If you would like time on the agenda contact the board at mena@eastsac.org. Issues ranging from retail development, neighborhood conflicts, local events and community fundraising are brought to the table each month.



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2010 New or Renewing Membership Form

Please detach and mail with your check to the following address:
P.O. Box 160222 Sacramento, CA 95816

Name _____

Phone number _____

Address _____

Email address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Member Status

New Renewing

Membership Categories and Annual Dues:

Resident \$15

Business \$20

If you would like to take your membership a step further, please make a donation and send it to the address above. Your donation will purchase more books at the McKinley Library, help tend our public gardens and parks and help promote a safer and more beautiful neighborhood for all of us in East Sacramento. Please indicate on your check that the funds are a donation.



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**Please take the time to
Renew Your 2010
MENA Membership
THANKS!**