

# ROSEMARY GARDENS

## NEIGHBORLY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER [www.rosemarygardens.org](http://www.rosemarygardens.org)

### CalTrans Clean-up

By: Maria Gutierrez

I believe that I can safely state that we all enjoy the perks of living in Rosemary Gardens. We have great neighbors, our neighborhood is overall very safe, and we can actually witness kids playing outdoors on any given day of the week. Rosemary Gardens is a hidden jewel in Silicon Valley. This feeling of bliss was rocked in 2016 with three



Photo taken 1/27/19, pathway behind Ferrari homes.

consecutive homeless encampment fires on the CalTrans-owned parcel located behind Ferrari Avenue. The closing of San Jose's largest homeless encampment, "The Jungle" had pushed more homeless people to set up camp behind our homes. Neighbors on Ferrari Avenue immediately stepped into action and contacted our council member and submitted CalTrans service requests.

The City's Housing Department responded by conducting an eviction of the homeless occupants on multiple occasions, but CalTrans failed to clean the mounds of garbage left behind. CalTrans addressed our concerns by simply mowing the brush area nearest to SB-880. I spent my summer vacation from teaching emailing representatives of San Jose and CalTrans and setting up meetings with very little success. We experienced over a year of quiet, though the homeless continued to be visible...until November 2018 when two consecutive fires put the neighbors back on edge. Some have

contemplated selling their homes. Why would anyone want to live in fear that you may die in a fire or lose your home due to another person's negligence?

Later in 2018, we met with our Assembly Member Kansen Chu and asked him to tour our neighborhood encampment. Soon after, we organized a neighborhood meeting with CalTrans that was attended by numerous residents, state and local officials. Residents young and old voiced their determination that CalTrans be held



Photo taken 1/29/19, same pathway behind Ferrari homes.

responsible to thoroughly clean the area. I have utilized Twitter, emails, and Facebook to shame CalTrans into cleaning the parcel. I went as far as creating a YouTube channel documenting the clean-up status. We are currently waiting for the Direct Order that disburses additional funds for CalTrans to hire contractors to finish the clean-up and install a more secure fence. Most recently, CalTrans requested that I provide a list of all of the items that we want to see accomplished; CalTrans is working on that list slowly but surely (see above photo). I will continue to tweet, post, email, and call until the work is done.

## Thank You!

Thank you to all who contributed to the neighborhood Second Harvest Food Drive. Although we did not reach our goal of 450 pounds of food, we did fill up almost two large bins. We'd also like to extend our thanks to the Holiday Inn, 1350 N. First Street, for graciously providing RGNA free use of their facilities for our CalTrans community meeting in November, and for hosting our annual meeting this month. It's great to have local businesses support our community!

## In Memoriam

Our neighborhood lost long-time resident, Bo Hoffman, last November at the age of 90. Neighbors may remember her open door and cheery face on Forrestal Avenue. Her parents were original owners of the home, and it was



Bo Hoffman standing outside of her home on Forrestal Avenue back in 1950's.

Bo who provided the old ads that appeared in our newsletter in the past. She had many adventures in her life, growing up in Arizona and Oklahoma, joining the Army, working in the San José Police Department, and driving cross country. Bo was blessed to have the help and support of many dear RG neighbors in her later years. She's survived by her nieces and nephews. She will be missed.

## RGNA Annual Meeting

Please join us for the Rosemary Gardens Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting:

**Tuesday, February 26, 6:30pm**  
**Holiday Inn, 1350 N. 1st Street**

Coffee and snacks will be available at 6:00pm, so come a little early and mingle with neighbors! The election of the RGNA Board of Directors will take place. If you're interested in adding your name to the ballot, contact us in advance at: [contact@rosemarygardens.org](mailto:contact@rosemarygardens.org). Agenda will include:

- updates from Councilperson Peralez' office
- updates from County Supervisor Cortese's office
- presentation by a SJC Airport representative regarding future airport expansion
- revision of RGNA bylaws

RGNA 2019 memberships are due, so please remember to bring along your checkbook. Your dues will help cover the cost of upcoming neighborhood events, so if you're not a member, please consider becoming one.

## Community Meeting with Developer

A community meeting with the developer of the 1249/1231 N. 1st Street properties (located right before the SB 880 on-ramp) and a member of the City's Planning Department is scheduled for:

**Thursday, February 28, 6:30-7:30pm**  
**Bachrodt Elementary School**

Rosemary Gardens neighbors will have an opportunity to view plans and ask questions about this project. The plan includes demolition of existing structures and construction of an 8,616 square-foot, one-story commercial retail building with 40 parking spaces.