



# BURLINGAME NEWS

## Burlingame Holiday and Caroling Celebration 2009



Last year's Burlingame Holiday Party was December 21st and emphasized the wonderful community spirit we have in Burlingame. There were approximately 35 people of all ages and vocal abilities -from bundles of joy wrapped in bundles for warmth, to those that 'still get around.' Of course we had our serious crooners and boisterous belters, and this year we had a guitar accompaniment as well. The holiday party was graciously hosted at Maureen Cavanagh's wonderfully decorated house. The Caroling was led by Grant Merkel. Special arrangements were made for Santa to make an appearance, and to pass out Candy Canes. Thanks Santa!!

After everyone filled up on holiday goodies for energy, we all headed out to make the rounds. The BHA provided all the Caroling books so everyone could easily share and read the words. There were nine households that requested Carolers this year, spread all around Burlingame, so our Carolers had their work cut out for them. We encouraged the children of Burlingame to be further involved in the activities by having a different child "pick" the next song by choosing from cards with a song name (hidden from them) on it. The streets of Burlingame looked great and festive with all the luminaries lit-up and placed on the sidewalks. Thanks to everyone who helped show

the wonderful holiday spirit that we have in Burlingame. The BHA hopes each of you and yours had a memorable holiday season!

Note: We are missing several Caroling books, if you have one still please return it to Grant Merkel at 2442 32nd St so we can use it again next year. Thank You!

### Kids' Corner

The kids participation in Burlingame activities in 2009 was outstanding! They had a great time at last years' block party. Special thanks to Donna Larson for all the work she did to make it all happen. The kids did a great job at the Caroling party as well! Some of our most reliable and active singers were in this group. Families enjoyed the great singing and an evening walk in the neighborhood. It was exciting not to know which song was going to be sung next until one of the kids picked the secret card to tell everyone! They also enjoyed the surprise visit by Santa and those Candy Canes from Old St Nicolas himself.

Thanks Santa for taking time out of your busy schedule to make a stop for us!

We hope you all enjoyed the activities at the holiday party last year and look forward to 'hearing from you' in 2010!



## WINTER CALENDAR

### BHA Monthly Meeting

January 13<sup>th</sup>

February 10<sup>th</sup>

March 10<sup>th</sup> --ANNUAL Meeting

### North Park Maintenance

#### Assessment District Citizen's Advisory Committee

January 11<sup>th</sup>

6:00 to 8:00 p.m..

North Park Recreation Center  
2719 Howard Avenue

### Councilmember

#### Todd Gloria's 'State of the District' Address

Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

6:30 p.m.

Old Globe's  
Conrad Prebys Theatre,  
Balboa Park

### BHA Board of Directors

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## Living in Burlingame is such a privilege

This privilege has offered me the satisfaction of accepting and providing the gifts that Burlingame has to offer. The deep historical roots here have contributed to my appreciation in many ways, but the people make Burlingame what it is. My time here is temporary, but my Historic home will endure based on the respect for the past and fascination for the future that I must uphold for it.

I see the value and beauty in Burlingame reflected in many ways. It's the caring neighbors taking time out of their schedule to care for each other in times of need. Neighbors working tirelessly to build Crime watch programs, Volunteers working industriously on the BHA while others built the legal foundation of the Association. It's the community of parents knowing their children are safe to play in others yards. The longest running Women's Club in San Diego still maintains the desire to persevere and contribute to others.

I marvel at the Trombone and Drums playing in the background of our now and future musicians, the cries of children learning our language or their playing games in creative transportation vehicles. Families working together to raise money for the research of others in need only reinforces my pride in the people I know here.

I feel privileged to be a part of Burlingame because of the Happy Hours. They bring about a genuine feeling of community; create good will and besides, getting together for a drink to unwind after work is always nice.

I understand more and more that we merely retain this landscape to strive to preserve it until a future generation continues the traditions that we build and establish.

As we approach our 100-year anniversary, I take pleasure in knowing that it will endure for 100 more....These are the things that make the heart and spirit of this great neighborhood.

Yes, living in this great neighborhood is a real privilege for me...

~A Neighbor

### Editor's note...



For last year's words belong to last year's language.

And next year's words await another voice.

And to make an end is to make a beginning."

- T.S. Elliott, *Little Gidding*

As we welcome 2010, I am privileged to introduce myself as the new Editor of the Burlingame Newsletter.

Grant Merkel, President of the Burlingame Homeowner's Association, will be a tough act to follow, but with your help I'm looking forward to sharing news of your neighbors, old house restoration tips, a little Burlingame history, and some of the fun events that take place in our community. The Newsletter will be published quarterly, so look for the next issue in the Spring. If you would like to share a story, a recipe, a celebration, or a milestone in your family, please feel free to contact me! I welcome your comments.

Dee Randolph

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## THINGS YOUR BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU:



1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.

2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.

3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste ... And taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.

4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.

5. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.

6. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom-and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.

7. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door-understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.

8. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)

9. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.

10. Here's a helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.

11. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.

12. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it at [faketv.com](http://faketv.com).)

### **EIGHT MORE THINGS A BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU:**

1. Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook.

2. The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors.

3. I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing

and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.

4. I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?

5. I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're home, and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.

6. Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address.

7. To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.

8. If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in.

Sources: Convicted burglars in North Carolina, Oregon, California, and Kentucky; security consultant Chris McGoey, who runs [crime-doctor.com](http://crime-doctor.com); and Richard T. Wright, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, who interviewed 105 burglars for his book [Burglars on the Job](#).

### **Safety for Burlingame's Littlest Citizens**

It seems like not very long ago, baby strollers adorned our pink sidewalks along with a flock of "New Baby" lawn Storks everywhere. Fast forward a few short years and we find our littlest citizens are no longer being pushed along by proud moms. Some, as young as five and six are now propelling themselves along those same sidewalks on skateboards and Razors and often with no adult safety net nearby.

Most traffic accidents occur between the hours of 5-7 pm because there are more cars on the road during that time, dusk is the most difficult time of the day for the eyes to adjust to changing light, and because many drivers are on their way home from after-work "Happy Hour."

Let's all make a concerted effort to become more responsible as we navigate our vehicles through Burlingame. When it comes to STOP signs and speeding, we all get a bit complacent and sloppy at times. Coming to a stop at a stop sign only adds seconds to our daily commute. Driving through Burlingame at 40 mph may get you home 15 seconds earlier than if you had been traveling at 25 mph, but it will also increase your reaction/stopping distance up to 140 feet, from just 45 feet at 25 mph. This dramatically reduces survivability of a child who might dart out between cars chasing a ball. Our kids deserve better odds than that. As parents, take a moment to remind your children of the importance of being mindful and respectful of moving vehicles while playing in the streets...especially when it's dark.

## “Garden renovation doesn’t stop at the front door”

California experienced a major draught in 2008. It was so dry the trees were whistling for the dogs...dust (mud with the juice squeezed out) with crab grass garnished our front yard. Crabgrass can grow on bowling balls in airless rooms, and there is no known way to kill it that does not involve nuclear weapons, so why waste our precious water on it? Besides, the Mayor informed us all that we would have our water rationed. Homeowners David McQuaide and Dee Randolph responded to the call to conserve and enlisted landscape designer Kendra Berger to design a draught tolerant landscape at their home (Casa de Moolah ) on the corner of Kalmia St. and 30th. After presenting them with an award winning design, their first job was to prepare the soil. The best tool for this was their neighbor's motorized garden tiller. However, their neighbor doesn't own a garden tiller. They suggested he buy one.



*Andrew Roach operates the Bobcat!*

...and then it rained. Plan B. - rent a Bobcat. So they enlisted their son-in-law to commandeer the Bob-Cat and dig in the mud. This was a signal to the kids in the neighborhood that Disneyland was now a whole lot closer and that a Bob Cat was definitely an "E" ticket ride! Once the ground was prepared, David engaged his creative talents and designed and built a Craftsman fence. At this point David's social

life blossomed! Upon completion of the fence he was afraid he would lose touch with his adoring public, so he dedicated himself to building a wall out of flagstone to maintain his visibility in the neighborhood.

Finally it was time for the landscaper to take charge and work his magic. After months of mud wrestling-matches to raise revenue, the McQuaides were thrilled with the results! Soon the front yard began garnering appreciation. Sharon Cohoon, the Garden Editor from Sunset Magazine was driving by and took note. She contacted Kendra Berger and arranged for a “site visit.” It impressed her enough to put it in her blog. You can take a look on her “Fresh Dirt” Blog *January 12* entry at: <http://freshdirt.sunset.com> .

## Making Progress in Switzer Canyon

Under the spirited leadership of Carrie Schneider, the Friends of Switzer Canyon were able to further transform the plantscape at the entrance to the Eastern half of our local canyon this past spring. Working with a selection of plants native to the canyons of San Diego the group installed over seventy transplants, including a selection of sages and succulents, Mexican Elderberry, and Toyons propagated by Pete DiGirolamo. Last year’s plantings are now well established, beginning to seed and have put on new growth. Individual specimen trees are becoming available for adoption by willing caretakers. Lastly, a big thanks to Lynn Dickson and Steve Mayman for their generous contribution of irrigation water.

**Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.**

## BHA Annual Meeting Wednesday, March 10, 2009

Mark your calendars for the Burlingame Homeowners Association Annual Meeting to be held at 7 pm on March 10, 2010 at Mazara Trattoria!

Pizza dinner provided by the BHA will begin at 6:30. Todd Gloria will be with us to give his annual report. Grant Merkel, BHA President will review neighborhood events of past year. Neighborhood Watch and Traffic Calming will be discussed. The meeting agenda also includes electing the 2010 -2011 Board of Directors. Members will have the opportunity to meet the nominees for the Board before the voting begins. **It is important that all members attend to ensure we have a quorum for the election.** To be eligible to vote at the meeting, households need to have their 2010 dues paid no later than February 23.

## Board Nominations

Help make a difference! BHA, like all volunteer organizations, relies heavily on the energy and skills of its dedicated volunteers to ‘make things happen’ and ensure the continued success of the organization. If you are looking to be more involved in the neighborhood, we would encourage you to consider running for a position on the Board. Please contact Grant Merkel at 619.501.4483 for more information.

If you have a talent, use it in every which way possible. Don't hoard it. Don't dole it out like a miser. Spend it lavishly like a millionaire intent on going broke.  
- Brendan Francis