

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

BLUFF HEIGHTS

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

INC



Visit us at: bluffheights.org

Autumn 2006 Issue

FALL MEETING ON THURSDAY SEPT. 21 AT HORACE MANN SCHOOL • 7 PM

Join our fall gathering!

We have an interesting & informative meeting planned for you. It is a time for meeting neighbors, learning and community involvement. We also welcome feedback to improve our neighborhood association. There will be a 'California Spanish' Presentation (See Page 9 for details.) So mark Thursday September 21st (at Horace Mann Elementary School Auditorium, Obispo at Mariquita) on your calendar. Doors open at 6:45 for socializing and refreshments. ♦



The "Vintage Homes of Bluff Heights" Home Tour Committee, Homeowners and docent team.

MEETING AGENDA:

- Welcome
- Elected officials welcome
- Long Beach Police Department update
- Newsletter review/Street Sign Project/4th of July Block Party/Home Tour, upcoming events
- Election of Board
- Kevin Doherty's California Spanish Presentation
- Questions/Answers

HOME & GARDEN TOUR A SUCCESS

This has been a record year for events in our neighborhood. First, our annual 4th of July Block Party and then our first home tour, "Vintage Homes of Bluff Heights". The home tour idea has long been a part of our BHNA Strategic

plan relating to our mission of educating the benefits of preservation.

Now that we have our designation as an historic district and with the recent installation of our new street signs indicating that special designation, we felt the summer of 2006 was the perfect time to present the delights of our neighborhood to the world; well at least to the City of Long Beach. We had visitors from LA, South Bay, Orange Co. and as far away as San Diego as well as Long Beach.

Six homes representing the early 20th century architecture prevalent in our neighborhood were open for docent-lead tours. As an added attraction we had nationally

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GOOD FENCES DO GOOD NEIGHBORS MAKE

Or so the saying goes....

Catherine Morley

However, when our homes were constructed the front yards were open and landscaped with grass, flowers and shrubs. The green front yard framed the house, allowing the architecture of the house to be enjoyed from the street and sidewalk.

Today, some homeowners want fences for privacy and security. They



The writer's fence acts as a trellis to allow her roses to flourish

fence can be an attractive addition to the property. If you make a decision to

install fencing the material used should match the materials found on your house. If your home is wood the fence should be wood. The fence should be simple in design so that it does not compete with the architecture. Plan your fence so that there is space to plant flowers and bushes to soften the look and create attractive landscaping. Fences which are constructed with modern materials such as steel, unfinished concrete block and chain link are modern materials which are not compatible and are not advised. Elaborate ornamental fences detract from the architecture of the home. Solid fences that form



A wisteria encroaches this Long Beach Pergola

may need the protection of a fence to keep children and dogs secured.

The preservation guidelines, which apply to exterior restoration on our homes, apply to any fences, arbors, or pergola's we install as well. These guidelines are in place to protect the historic charter and integrity of the property as a whole.

Fencing can enhance or detract from the architectural character of the home. A compatible

a solid wall across the front of the property are discouraged.

Should you consider installing a fence, a City of Long Beach building permit is required as well as a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Neighborhood Historic Preservation Office. Contact the Preservation Office (562.570.6864) for additional information and to obtain the application form. Working together, we can keep our neighborhoods historic integrity intact. ♦

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HALLOWEEN SAFETY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Dennis Snyder

There is no real "trick" to making Halloween a real treat for the entire family. The major dangers are not from witches or spirits but rather from falls and pedestrian/car crashes. Everyone in our neighborhood needs to think about safety on this annual day of make-believe.



Motorists need to be alert on Halloween:

- Watch for children darting out from between parked cars.
- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.

Before kids start out on their trick or treating, parents should:

- Make sure that an adult or an older responsible youth will be supervising the outing for children under age 12.
- Plan and discuss the route trick-or-treaters intend to follow. Know the names of older children's companions.
- Instruct your children to travel only in familiar areas or an established route.

- Teach your children to stop only at houses/apartments that are well-lit and never to enter a stranger's home.
- Establish a return time.
- Tell your youngsters not to eat any treat until they return home.
- Review all appropriate trick-or-treat safety precautions, including pedestrian/traffic safety rules.
- Pin a slip of paper with the child's name, address and phone number inside a pocket in case the youngster gets separated from the group.

Costume Safety

- Only fire-retardant materials should be used for costumes.
- Costumes should be loose so warm clothes can be worn underneath.
- Costumes should not be so long that they are a tripping hazard. (Falls are the leading cause of unintentional injuries on Halloween.)
- If children are allowed out after dark, outfits should be made with light colored materials. Strips of retroreflective tape should be used to make children visible.
- Masks can obstruct a child's vision. Use facial make-up instead.
- When buying special Halloween make up, check for packages containing ingredients that are labeled "Made with U.S. Approved Color Additives," "Laboratory Tested," "Meets Federal Standards for Cosmetics," or "Non-Toxic." Follow manufacturer's application instructions.
- If masks are worn, they should have nose & mouth openings and large eye holes.
- Knives, swords and other accessories should be made from cardboard or flexible materials. Do not allow children to carry sharp objects.
- Bags or sacks carried by youngsters should be light-colored or trimmed with retro-reflective tape if children are allowed out after dark.
- Carrying flashlights will help children see better and be seen more clearly.

Children should follow these rules:

- Do not enter homes or apartments without adult supervision.
- Walk, do not run, from house to house. Do not cross yards and lawns where

unseen objects or the uneven terrain can present tripping hazards.

- Walk on sidewalks, not in the street.
- Treats: parents are urged to:**
- Give kids an early meal before going out.
 - Insist that treats be brought home for inspection before anything is eaten.
 - Wash fruit and slice into small pieces.
 - When in doubt, throw it out.

Have a safe and happy Halloween! ♦

THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS!

Dale Maul & John Thomas

There is a wonderful scent in the air...its success! The residents of Bluff Heights have every reason to be proud and boasting for our most recent successful events and projects. First, we completed the installation of our historic street signs! Have you checked them out late-



ly? We are very excited about the completion of this project...just in time for the summer as we receive our out-of-town guests and stroll the neighborhood. There is no questioning where we are...the wonderful neighborhood known as Bluff Heights!

Then, another wonderful and successful 4th of July party! Over 300 neighbors and friends attended this year to music, food, games and fun including another visit from Uncle Sam! Most recently, we hosted our first Historic Home and Garden

Continued on page 12

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VINTAGE HOMES OF BLUFF HEIGHTS

Home & Garden Tour



251 Junipero

A BIG SUCCESS!

Continued from page 1

recognized Arts & Crafts restoration expert and author of many well-known Bungalow books, Jane Powell, speak on interior restoration and decoration. The Horace Mann School auditorium was filled to capacity. She was a delight and really helped to make our event even more special and interesting. Over 285 visitors with 75 docents toured our neighborhood. All of the responses we have received have been very positive. It was a great day, lots of fun but lots of work as well. Special thanks to our homeowners, docents, volunteers and Board of Directors; all of whom were so important in making this event successful. Hope you didn't miss it. ♦



241 Obispo



302 Orizaba



3021 East Vista



392 Orizaba



229 Coronado

Bluff Heights Home Tour: Many Thanks to:

Homeowners

JeanPierre & Pamela Parker
Mike Norton & Chris Myint
Chris & Lynn Millard
Frank & Catherine Morley
Layne Johnson & Chris Hogan
Dennis Snyder & Gary Ostrowski

Planning Committee

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Johane Gimipro
Suzanne Ridley
Dale Maul
John Thomas
Gary Ostrowski
Dennis Snyder, *Graphic Designer*
Chris Launi, *Home Photographer*

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Sweet Peas
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And a very special thank you to

Ron and Gladys Bird for hosting the Volunteer Thank You Party in their beautiful back yard.



Jane Powell Power Points!



Bungalow Books augment the Home Tour



Johanna and Catherine handle brisk ticket sales



Sign, Sign, Everywhere a sign!



John Thomas addresses Home Tour Group



The Home Owners received a Chris Launi Photo of their home



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4TH OF JULY 2006: A "BLOCK" BUSTER!

Dennis Snyder

This past Independence day the annual block party on Vista blasted off in a shower of red, white and blue confetti. The opening ceremonies highlighted the neighborhood's new street signage achievement as well as kicking off a day of non-stop fun. The popular event added a Silent Auction, a Bubble Gum Blowing Contest & a Classic Bike Show to the lineup. Traditional favorites continued like The Patriotic Pooch Parade; The Dunk Tank; The

Neighborhood Potluck; Music and Dancing; The Chili Contest; The Cakewalk; The Water Balloon Toss; Princess Laff-a-lot Face Painting; Watermelon Eating Contest; Limbo Contest and the Opportunity Drawing.

After the door prizes had all been awarded the neighborhood prepared for the reinstated firework show over the majestic Queen Mary.

Almost an entire page was dedicated to our event in the Press Telegram on July 5. ♦



Dan's Model "T" graced the opening ceremonies and then the front of the Johnson's home.



Photo courtesy of Stephen Carr

Not catching a waterballoon on this hot day can pay off.



Sophie mugs in the Pet Parade



Waterballoon Toss contestants enjoying some catch-up



Fountains and pools on Vista were a popular oasis among kids



Suzanne and Jim proudly display their prize for winning the 2006 Chili Contest.



Photo courtesy of [unclear]

JULY PARTY
VISTA



Waterballoon Toss participants ranged from talented to "all wet"

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- Immanuel Community Church
- La Parolaccia Restaurant
- Lasher's Restaurant
- Les Alpillles/Masion Provence
- The Library – A Coffee House
- Paw's and Claws
- Star of Siam
- Surya Gallerie
- The Syndicate Barber Shop
- Toto's Revenge
- Tribune Entertainment
- Two Bee's Antiques
- Van's Hardware
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David and Dylan must shop in the same stores.



Low man on the Limbo pole



Blow, blow, blow your gum gently down the street



Princess Laff-A-Lot resur-FACES!



This little tiger sent into Melissa in the tank!



Barbie takes the cake this year!



CALIFORNIA SPANISH!

By Kevin Doherty

In the summer of '52 my parents came out west as so many did in those days, lured by the prospect of jobs, family life and a the promise of home ownership on a tree lined street under the warm California sun.

Dad was eligible for the G.I. bill and because of it he and my Mom were able to purchase a cozy Spanish bungalow located at 8712 Ashcroft Avenue in West Hollywood. My twin brother and I were born the following year and with my older brother and sister our boisterous

scape? Why did Mediterranean-style homes become so popular in the late 19th and early 20th century, and what explains our continuing love affair with Spanish architecture and decor?

SPAIN TAKES CHARGE

In an historical nutshell, Spain needed to shore up her holdings in California during the 1700's and so the king sent over a sizable military presence and also a cadre of Franciscan missionaries headed up by Father Junipero Serra. The king ordered his missionaries to convert the natives and build a series of missionary

became secularized, eventually abandoned, and ultimately fell into a long state of disrepair. What followed was an ironic twist of fate that affects us to this very day.

THE SUBLIME AND THE PICTURESQUE

The point at which the Franciscan missions lay in ruins was, ironically enough, the very point at which they began to garner an astonishing degree of interest among the eastern establishment. Lured by romanticized railroad company promotionals, writers such as Helen Hunt Jackson and artists such as John Gaylen Howard made train trips out west to visit the missions and were duly impressed. Drawing upon the size, mass and visual appeal of these structures, they began to conjure up a mythology depicting the missions as sublime and picturesque. Their romantic writings and sketches, published in Harpers Weekly magazine among others, were eventually supplemented with Howard's conceptual residential sketches in the Mission style. This gained the attention of wealthy easterners and a variety of entrepreneurs who could see that there was plenty of money to be made. Publicity of an historic tone ensued and quickly turned into rampant promotion-alism of all things Mission. Catapulted by the land boom of the 1880's, the Mission craze got underway with scores of Americans riding the rails to California in search of the new frontier, Franciscan Missions, and, of course, that little piece of land on which a Mission style bungalow was promised by savvy land speculators and builders who were lying in wait.

E B B A N D F L O W

After a twenty year run, popular interest in Mission Revival homes began to wane. Around 1905 a new aesthetic emerged in the form of the Arts and Crafts Movement and accompanying lifestyle. Through the efforts of Gustav



family of six spent many happy hours in and around that charming little echo of Spain. I carry fond memories of my experiences in that home and can't help but feel that in some way it contributed to my love of architecture and my career choice to become a historic consultant and designer.

Spanish architecture is found in abundance throughout Southern California and a good thing it is! How is it that all things Spanish became so identified with the California frame of mind? What role did the Franciscan Missions play in the development of California's residential and commercial architectural land-

outposts spanning the north-south length of his territory. That they did, creating 21 missions in all built of adobe brick, using experimental workmanship and simplified design. The results were nothing short of amazing in both form and function especially given the fact that none of the monks or laborers were professional artisans, much less trained architects.

In the early 1800's Mexico went to war with Spain for the land and won, at which point the Spanish were sent packing. Around mid-century; the U.S. went to war with Mexico as it was our "Manifest Destiny" to secure the territory for the United States. The missions



Stickley, the California Bungalow became the architectural embodiment of Arts and Crafts ideals. Interestingly, Mission Revival architectural elements found their way into Craftsman Bungalow vernacular and the word "Mission" was often used to categorize furniture styles of Stickley and others. Hundreds of shingled or clapboard homes were built and bought by a second wave of westward bound Americans seeking their pot of gold at the end of the rainbow in Southern California. The heyday of the bungalow was relatively short lived and by the late 1920's Spain's architectural heritage was once again back in fashion.

SPANISH COLONIALS

In the second wave of the Spanish architectural revival during the late 1920's and early 30's, architects looked to Spain rather than to the missions for inspiration. The old towns of Seville, Cordoba and Granados provided many examples of buildings whose elements were beautifully synthesized in the hands of architects such as Wallace Neff and Sylvanus Marsdon who were based in Pasadena. In a flurry of building, simple but artistic working man's Spanish style bungalows sprang up and were eagerly embraced in nearly every town from San Diego to Santa Barbara. The style lent itself equally well to commercial application as can be seen for example in the Los Angeles Union Station or the Santa Barbara Courthouse.

HISTORY, POETRY, ROMANCE !

Of all the architectural styles that prevailed during the late 19th early 20th century Romantic Revival Movement, the Spanish style remained the most popular. It seemed perfectly suited to the geography and climate of Southern California, and its gentle lines facilitated application in a variety of settings and uses. It had an historic appeal and a lineage traceable to the Franciscan Missions proclaimed to be California's architectural archetype. It appealed to our sense of romance and sentimentality while at the same time satisfying our practical living needs. That modest Spanish colonial bungalow of ours in West Hollywood radiated history, romance, and poetry; attributes that captured my heart as a little boy, undoubtedly an experience shared by many of you and hopefully one that will be cherished by future generations for a long, long time to come. VIVA LA SPAIN ! ♦

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CALIFORNIA SPANISH Presentation at the Fall Meeting

Kevin Doherty

Spanish architecture and the California landscape is a marriage made in heaven. The climate, culture, and California state of mind produced a fertile mix for the proliferation of Mediterranean-style



buildings that graced the cities and town of California during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Please join historic consultant/designer, Bungalow Kev (Kevin Doherty), for his inspired slide show presentation entitled, "California Spanish!" The show traces the origin of the Spanish-style residential and commercial building from its roots in Spain to America and ultimately to its home ground right here in sunny California. The influence of the California Franciscan missions and the Romantic Revival Movement on the architectural and cultural landscape will be explored and connected to the popularity of Spanish homes throughout the 1920's. Colorful examples of modest Spanish bungalows and grand commercial buildings set in beautiful gardens will add variety and visual delight to the show. Brief biographies of key architects will personalize the story while insights into popular culture, the role of Hollywood, and plenty of bungalow trivia will add humor to a story that is quintessentially Californian. ♦



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Dealing with inspectors, contractors, & decisions

Suzanne Ridley

In previous installments we discussed getting to the point of actually starting the work. When you finally have your permit in hand and the dust starts flying, then the fun begins! As discussed previously, be prepared to be inconvenienced, and try to take it in stride as part of the process of getting that dream home

you've always wanted. In this article, I'd like to discuss issues regarding inspectors and contractors. If I can emphasize one word here, it is "respect". Perhaps another way to put it is to always obey the golden rule: Treat others as you would like to be treated yourself. You will come across people supporting your job who will frustrate you, disappoint you, and just simply make you angry. The exercise of restraint and dignity will go a long way here toward keeping your job on track. For now, let's think of both workers and inspectors as support people, because you cannot get your job done without the support of both.

Sometimes, we think that a person is stupid, lazy, or just downright mean. Usually, it is simply a case of one side not understanding the other. Therein is the importance of the word "respect". If you show disdain for another person, they will completely shut down – whether or not you are mistaken or they are themselves! It is best to ask for advice or documentation from the person in question. Try saying something like, "I don't understand why this can [or cannot] be done. Can you explain it to me so that I can think of a better way, or can you show me the regulation?" That gives you a chance to see where the person is coming from and for the person to perhaps see the error themselves. It also gives YOU a chance to learn something you might not have known. It is all about saving face. Nobody wants to lose face, including you.

Let's talk about inspectors. Please know that the city inspectors are not here to give you a hard time. They are here to ensure that a quality job is done that will be safe to live in and withstand the test of time. It does not hurt to question an inspector if he makes a call that you absolutely think is wrong. In our case, for instance, the final inspector came and looked at our second story deck walls and railings and deter-

Diary of a Mad Home Remodeling "Expert"

continued from page 5



Drinking a martini while using power tools is not recommended. But consider a dry one after the inspector has approved your project!

mined that they should be six inches taller than they were. Of course, with stucco walls and custom iron railings, that would have been a disaster to fix, not to mention that the overall height above ground would have been out of code. So – I referred him to the city-approved drawings that clearly showed the 36 inch walls and railings, and asked him how the city could have approved 36 inches if the requirement were really 42 inches. I was polite and didn't call him an idiot or insult him, but



Suzanne hits the roof

just asked the question. He went back to his car and consulted his code book and realized that the 42 inches were for commercial properties, not residential. The point is that, instead of just telling him he didn't know what he was talking about as one might tend to feel, I simply showed him the plans and asked for his help.

Inspectors know lots of contractors and subcontractors, and are a wealth of information with regard to building projects. Ask advice, and take notes. Give this person the respect he/she deserves, and you will have a true ally for your job.

Now for the contractor(s). If you are acting as your own prime contractor, remember the advice from the first article: ask for recommendations. Generally, each tradesman knows tradesmen whose work precede and follow his/her effort. They

know who is good, reliable, and will continue on a quality job that will make their own work shine. Ask their advice, and be sure to tell the referral tradesman who referred you, as one hand does wash the other. There is also a peer-pressure pride relationship here, as one tradesman does not want the other to think he is not a quality performer.

Again, treat your contractors with respect, but also with kindness. That is a very feminine thing to say, but a little consideration and kindness goes a long way toward getting your job done well and within budget. On a hot day, give them cold drinks. If they work on a Saturday, buy or make them lunch. Provide them with a cool, comfortable place to eat their lunches on site. We had a small table with a shade umbrella that would seat four to six of them and was great for a small crew. Show up with a pizza for lunch once in awhile, or give them cookies or fruit in the afternoon. Most the crews really appreciate fruit. We had a drywall crew that consisted of father, son, and nephew, one of whom was a pretty young boy helping out. It was very hot, so I gave them all cups of ice cream in the heat of the afternoon, and even helped load the drywall up onto the second level. Let me tell you, that crew really worked HARD, did a great job quickly, and didn't charge extra for hauling the drywall from the front yard up to the second story.

Finally, be prepared to make decisions in a timely manner. That means that you need to be readily available either by cell phone or preferably by being on site. There is nothing worse than having the workers make the decision for you because you are not there, and you not liking the decision. It creates bad will on both sides and undoing the work can be costly, time consuming, and sometimes next to impossible! This is why good communication is so important with your spouse or partner as well, as you need to have a thorough understanding of each other's hard points and soft points so that one of you doesn't make the wrong decision when you are unable to reach the other. ♦

Next issue:

Finishing up & getting final inspection.

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- Access to resources and educational opportunities
- Your voice is heard by the BHNA
- Involvement in your community through volunteer and leadership opportunities
- Supporting local businesses through your involvement
- Voting rights in BHNA Elections

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Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Cell Phone: _____ RENEWAL or NEW MEMBER

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E-mail: _____

Please check the committee(s) you would be interested in joining

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership and Recruitment | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter/Web Production |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Streets/Safety | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4th of July Block Party | _____ |

Can we give you a call or e-mail if we need volunteer help? Yes No

Please send a check for \$25 made payable to BHNA and mail to:

BHNA Attn: Christine Votava, P.O. Box 375 Redondo Ave., Box #299, Long Beach, CA 90814.

OR renew online through Paypal at bluffheights.org

BHNA SUCCESS

Continued from page 3

Tour. Over 280 tour goers were treated to some of the best examples of historic homes and architecture in the City. Six homeowners opened their homes to the guest's and docents. We were honored to host noted author and Bungalow/Craftsman expert Jane Powell for a lecture and book signing. Many thanks to the homeowners, docents, advertisers and businesses that gave in-kind donations and most of all, the attendees in making our first home tour a tremendous success! Well, is it sounds like your Co-Presidents are bragging like proud papas...your right!



Dale Maul



John Thomas

Thanks to a wonderful Board, friends and neighbors, we are so very honored and proud to have the privileged to be your Co-Presidents!

-John & Dale♦

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency.....	911
Police Non-Emergency	435-6711
Airport Noise Abatement.....	570-2678
Animal Control	570-PETS
Apartment Watch	570-7160
Business Watch	570-7274
BHNA.....	439-BHNA
City of L.B. Info.	570-6555
City Council (District 3).....	570-6310
Code Enforcement	570-CODE
Fire Prevention	570-2560
Gang Hotline	(866)426-4847
Gas Emergency	570-2140
Graffiti Hot Line.....	570-2773
Health Department.....	570-4000
Housing Rehabilitation Loans....	570-6808
Narcotics Tip Line	570-7125
Neighborhood Watch	570-7229
Noise Abatement	570-4126
Sidewalk Hotline	570-6264
Shopping cart Hotline.....	(800)252-4613
Special Refuse Pick-ups	570-2876
Street Lights	983-2000
Street Potholes Hotline.....	570-3259
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Tree Trimming	570-2700
Water Emergency	570-2300
Community Hospital.....	498-1000

All telephone numbers are area code (562) unless otherwise listed.



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- Board Member.....Suzanne Ridley
- Board Member.....Dennis Snyder

The board stands through 1-4-07

Next Three Community Meetings:

- September 21, 2006
- January 18, 2007
- April 19, 2007

Next Three Board Meetings:

- October 5, 2006
- November 2, 2006
- December 7, 2006

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