

Forest Glade Estates Newsletter

March 2014 - www.forestgladeestates.org



FGE Board Members: **Jean Shuler-President**, 449-1312, v.shuler@comcast.net; **Tim Barry-Vice President**, 456-9595, cugma@pacbell.net; **Jim Mackanic-Secretary**, 373-1041, jim.mackanic@gmail.com; **James Wang-Treasurer**, 449-5343, jcfwang@comcast.net; **Irving Stowers-Newsletter**, 371-0854, irving.stowers@mac.com; **George Farquar-Board Member**, 321-5658, hannah.farquar@gmail.com; **Chris Brown-Social Committee**, 519-5870, chris.d.brown57@gmail.com; **Enda Sterne-Webmaster**, 443-2043, pasterne@comcast.net; and **Wayne Miller**, 606-9575, artznrcrafts@comcast.net.

FGE Annual Meeting (and Party)

The date for the legally required FGE Annual Meeting (and summer party) will be the 7th of June, 4 to 7 pm in Jean Shuler's driveway (1804 Old Tower Road).

The official reason for the Annual Meeting is to elect new FGE Directors. However, we always use this time of year as an excuse to have a party with free food, drink, music, and possibly an invited speaker. So put this important event on your calendar.

Election Process

All of the rules for electing FGE Directors are in the Bylaws - but I thought I'd attempt to summarize the process for new residents and those who have forgotten.

*Forest Glade Estates
Homeowners Association*

This election is to establish the five voting members of the board of directors. Place your vote by checking up to 5 TOTAL boxes. If you wish, you may place all your votes for one candidate or any combination of candidates, but check only five (5) boxes or your ballot will be invalid.

The five candidates with the most votes will be elected as the voting Directors and the other candidates will be asked to participate on the board as Members at Large.¹

Write-in candidates are accepted only with the full permission of the candidate.

Director:	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Tim Barry 1832 Creek Road, 456-9595
Director:	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Christopher Brown 1784 Creek Road, (832) 289-0438
Director:	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	George Farquar / Hannah Farquar 1951 Creek Road, 321-5658
Director:	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Kevin Gunn 1864 Creek Road, 443-2212
Director:	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	James Mackanic 1755 Creek Road, 373-1041
Director:	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Jean Shuler 1804 Old Tower Road, 449-1312
Director:	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Irving Stowers 811 Kingsbury Drive, 371-0854
Director:	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	James Wang 1762 Old Tower Road, 449-5343
Director:	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	_____ "Write-In Candidates Name"

Return your ballot in its original numbered envelope by **Saturday June 15** either by giving it to any FGE Board Member; delivering it to 811 Kingsbury Drive; or by bringing it to the **FGE Annual Meeting on June 15**.

¹ This style of voting is called *Cumulative Voting* and is dictated by our FGE CC&Rs and Bylaws. It is a multiple-winner voting system intended to promote a more proportional representation than a winner-take-all election. This voting style is described fully at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cumulative_Voting

Pictured above is last year's election ballot.

The first step is for the current Directors to create a *Nominations Committee* consisting of Board members and homeowners to seek out residents who would like an opportunity to sit on the Board of Directors. The Bylaws indicate that we need to elect five (5) Directors. We can nominate more than 5

candidates but there can be only be 5 voting Directors. Since it's nice to be inclusive - the Board has adopted a rule that if we have more than 5 nominees, the elected Directors will invite the other nominees to participate in monthly Board meetings in a non-voting capacity.

The actual election process is done by secret ballot and is referred to as a *Cumulative Voting* process. Each household is allowed to cast 5 votes which can be placed evenly or unevenly on their choice of candidates.

Unlike Presidential elections, you are allowed to place all or several of your votes on a subset of the candidates. This is done to ensure that even a relatively few households can greatly influence the election of a single candidate.

Election Candidates Needed

If you have any interest in being a Director, please notify any of the Board members listed in the left margin by phone or email. This will ensure that you are listed on the election ballot to be distributed in May.

Mailbox Refurbishment

Our hired handyman has completed the reroofing of all of the FGE mailboxes and they look GREAT. We want to encourage homeowners to consider painting or staining their mailbox to complement their home colors.



Example of reroofed mailbox

Camping Ordinance

Despite speakers who called the move “inhumane” and ineffective, the City Council on Monday (February 10) adopted a law giving the city the power to clear out homeless camps.

Citing threats to public health and safety, especially from camps along the Arroyo Mocho and other waterways - council members voted 4-1 to adopt an urban camping ban for public lands or private property with a public right of way.

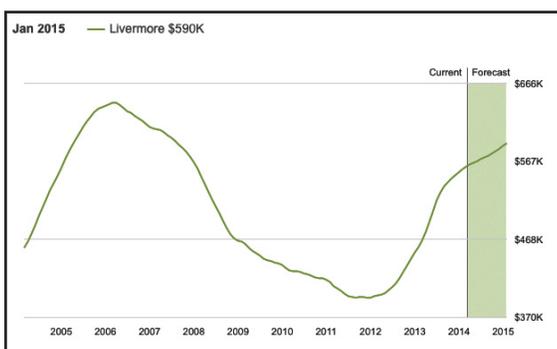
Mayor John Marchand, who proposed the ordinance, said it would give police and the city power to combat increasing problems of solid waste and trash in local waterways.

City officials said the new rule that makes putting up tents or makeshift shelters for camping in public areas a civil infraction - with \$100 fines for first-time offenders - would be *complaint-driven* and enforced in “a compassionate fashion.”

Real Estate Prices

The median home value in Livermore is \$557,500. Livermore home values have gone up 21.4% over the past year and Zillow predicts they will rise 6.0% within the next year. The median list price per square foot in Livermore is \$341, which is lower than the San Francisco Metro average of \$379.

Based on the graphic below, median home prices appear to be approaching their all-time high of 2006.



Median home prices in Livermore - courtesy of Zillow

Garden Work Party



Garden Work Parties are planned for the second Saturday of each month at 8:30 am. Volunteers should meet at the tennis court. The next work parties are planned for April 12 & May 10.

Next FGE Board Meetings



Next board meeting will be held **Thursday, March 20, 7:00 pm at Jean Shuler's home, 1804 Old Tower Road.** As always - all homeowners are encouraged to attend Board meetings.

