



# ECA NEWSLETTER

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### PRESIDENT

Claudette Ostrander 215-1828  
scostrander@surewest.net

### VICE PRES/NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Fred Links 481-1574  
Fredlinks@comcast.net

### SECRETARY

Samira Al-Qazzaz 483-0365  
peace7777@comcast.net

### TREASURER/COMMUNICATIONS

Curtis Wheeler 979-0559  
curtiswheeler@evergreencommonshoa.org

### POOL & PARK

Marvin Potts 481-9642

### ARCHITECTURAL

Alexis Davidson 482-2526  
alexisdavidson@evergreencommonshoa.org

### SOCIAL

John Altieri 481-8946  
Johnaltieri@evergreencommonshoa.org



## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT CLAUDETTE OSTRANDER

The annual meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup> is fast approaching and I hope you have the date marked on your calendar and plan on attending.

It has been my pleasure serving as your President this year and I have had the privilege of working with some dedicated people who want the best for our community. Three of our Directors term is up and two, Fred Links and John Altieri, have chosen not to run for another term and Curtis Wheeler's name is on the ballot. For the two "retirees" their time and efforts will be missed. They have my personal gratitude for their years of service on the Board. Speaking of ballots – if you do not plan on attending the meeting mail your ballots NOW! If attending, remember the meeting starts at 7:00pm and voting closes at 7:15pm.

## ALL ASSESSMENTS MUST BE UP TO DATE FOR YOUR VOTE TO COUNT!

We will have sign-up sheets for our various social functions so, please, volunteer your time.

## FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

We are still collecting your used batteries and CFL light bulbs.

Bring to the

### ANNUAL MEETING

for collection

Other dates will be announced,

but usually:

**WORK DAY**

**AND 4TH OF  
JULY**



## ECA ANNUAL MEETING

**7 PM, THURSDAY, 02/16**

**PASADENA SCHOOL**

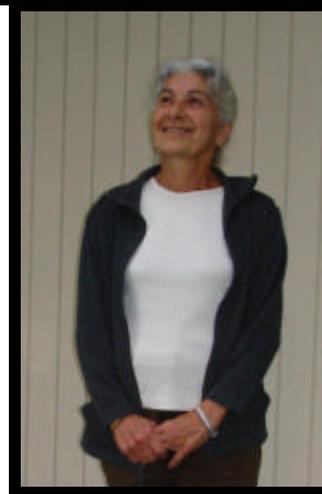
**(drinks provided—you bring the snacks)**



**ANNUAL NEWSLETTER AND BALLOTS  
HAVE BEEN SENT OUT. PLEASE CONTACT A  
BOARD MEMBER IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE  
YOURS!!!**

# GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## SAMIRA AL-QAZZAZ



I am a native of Iraq. After graduating from the University of Baghdad with a B.A. degree in Sociology I was granted a scholarship from the University of Berkeley to pursue a post-graduate degree. I have been in the United States, my adopted country, since July 1963 and became a US citizen in 1980. Following my divorce in 1976 I joined the work force of the State of California. After working 32 years at the Department of Health Services, culminating with the position of a Program Specialist, I finally retired in mid 1994. Retirement suits me perfectly as I, finally, can do what I please with my time and energy. That means very active social life and lots and lots of hiking trips not only in California and the U.S. but also in Europe. My daughter, Mimi, and I enjoy these hikes which most of the time end at a peak or a pass somewhere in the world. For my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, December 7<sup>th</sup> of last year, I gifted myself a successful Rim 2 Rim hike of the Grand Canyon. Gardening is another one of my hobbies. For me, yard work is a very peaceful and rewarding endeavor. I also dedicate some time for being a Peace activist as I am a member of the Sacramento Area Peace Action group.

In 1976 I purchased a halfplex on Zephyr Way. My friend, Al Ezell, joined me in 1981. And in 1986 my neighbor sold me the adjacent halfplex. Even though I moved out of the Evergreen Commons in 1988, I chose to participate in various activities of the community for I consider myself lucky to own property which is part of beautiful ECA. I have served on the Board of Directors both as a resident and as an absentee owner.



### ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE ALEXIS DAVIDSON



The Board of Directors sent letters in January to homeowners who were not in compliance with the CC&Rs, advising the corrections that are needed. Primary concerns are storing garbage cans in carports or driveways or otherwise in view, peeling paint on the fascia boards and beams, and some dry rot on beams. Other concerns are landscaping needing water and trimming, dead trees and branches, and cars without current registration, which also violates county codes. ***Thank you to those who have addressed the corrections needed.***

We are also thankful for those homeowners who have maintained their lots in good condition. As we drive throughout various parts of the Sacramento area, we can see the consequences of Streng and Eichler neighborhoods where people do not conform to a standard of care. We appreciate the generally good appearance of Evergreen Commons and your efforts to keep it that way.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT - CURTIS WHEELER**



We are starting out the new fiscal year in good financial shape. Thank you to all that have paid your first quarter assessments in addition to those that took advantage of the discount by paying your quarterly assessments for the year. As I write this article we still have twelve lots with unpaid assessments. Late fees have been assessed on these accounts. If you haven't sent in your first quarter assessment, please do so right away.

Some of you may not know how assessments are calculated. This is the way it is done: We create a pro forma budget based on what we expect the operating expenses to be each year, then that amount is to be equally allocated out to determine the quarterly assessment for each lot. A "pro forma" budget is not set in stone. Our expenses are pretty predictable so our budget items don't deviate too much from the plan, but the budget can be changed during the year as needed.

The Association has been able to budget without raising assessments since 2005. Our total expenses appear to have stayed fairly level because we have reduced spending in some areas that have offset increases in others. In addition, we probably over-budgeted during the first couple of years of the higher assessments. This is not a warning that I think assessments need to be increased, but more to let you know that our expenses and our assessments are supposed to be very close to equal. The important message to take away is that everyone needs to do their best to stay current in order for us to cover our costs every year.

My latest Treasurer's report, delivered to the Board at the last regular meeting on February 2, is available on our web site at [www.evergreencommonshoa.org/documents](http://www.evergreencommonshoa.org/documents). A user name and password are required. If you don't already have password and would like to access the "members only" content of the web site, please send me an email and I can set you up. I can also send you a copy of the report by e-mail if you prefer.

## **SOCIAL DIRECTOR--- JOHN ALTIERI**



Sign up sheets for the Easter Egg Hunt and Fourth of July Party will be available at the Annual Meeting. I strongly encourage any and all members who plan to attend these events to make an early commitment by signing up to help and to show your support for these annual events. "Many hands make light work."

The Board is busy getting ready for the ECA Annual Meeting on Thursday, February 16. As in the past, beverages will be provided but we are again asking members to bring the snacks, cookies, etc. Thank you very much!

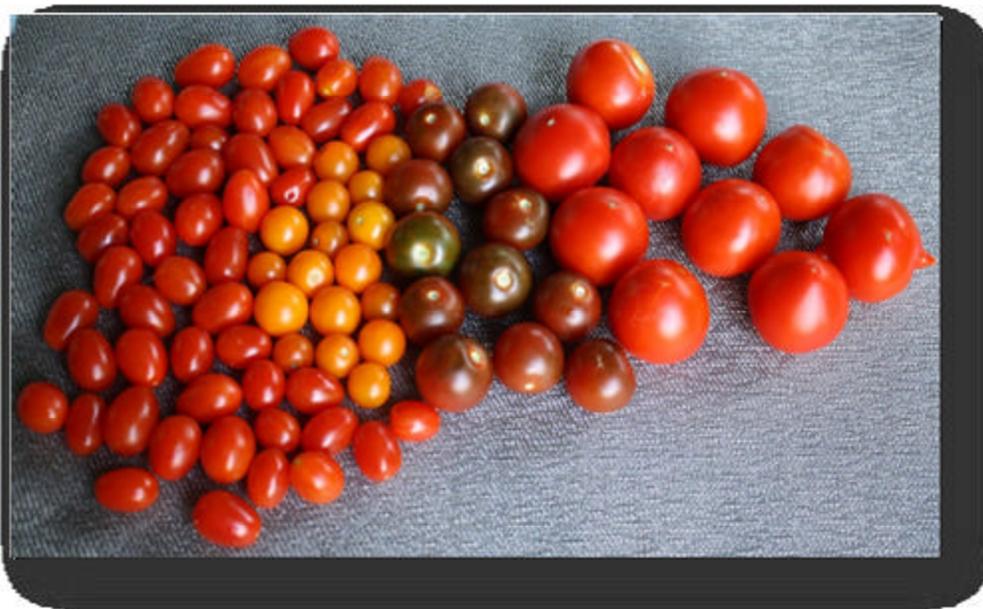
## Garden Glimpses by Linda Hax



The *Oxford American Dictionary* selected “locavore” as the 2007 word of the year, meaning a person interested in food produced locally as a way to help the environment. You can’t get more local than your own back yard whether motivated by curiosity, environmental concerns, the challenge of DIY, or desire for the freshest possible flavor.

**John and Meiling Altieri** grew four kinds of tomatoes last year: two cherry tomatoes, Supersweet and Sungold hybrid; heritage variety beefsteak Mortgage Lifter; and Momotaro, a Japanese variety. They enjoyed popping their Sungold cherry tomatoes into their mouths straight off the vine. Fortunately, they produced enough tomatoes to also make their linguini with fresh basil and tomatoes. The Altieris maintain a 25x4.5-foot vegetable garden along their Pasadena Avenue fence where they grew Chinese squash, string beans, long beans, Japanese eggplants, bell peppers, cucumbers, and basil in addition to their tomatoes.

**Vic de Vlaming's** yard also yielded cherry tomatoes, his grown in raised planter beds.



It appears from the picture Vic also grew four tomato varieties. “Almost wore ourselves out on ‘maters” read one of his captions. Those cherry tomatoes provide eye candy as well as a healthy snack. The de Vlaming’s yard also hosts four fruit trees: an apricot, plum, and two cherry trees. Vic tries to pick his fruit just ahead of when the birds and squirrels think it ready to eat. Since the de Vlaming’s enjoy wine tasting, they bought a couple of chardonnay grapevines to cultivate their own brew; however, they discovered it takes five vines to raise one bottle of wine.

## Garden Glimpses (cont)

Many fruit trees alternate between modest crops one year followed by bumper crops the next. This was a bumper crop year for both my Mission Fig and Fuyu Persimmons. The persimmon yielded over 300 fruit this year. What I like about the Fuyu is its long harvest season, nearly two months. I first eat the firm persimmon like an apple, cut in wedges or in fruit salads. Then the semi-soft fruit were dehydrated into beautiful dried fruit slices that taste like candy. Squishy ripe fruit pulp is perfect for baking or freezing for later. Too-high-to-pluck fruit provided entertainment watching the snacking antics of birds and squirrels.



*Squirrel munching on persimmon.  
The well-mannered birds and squirrels thoughtfully finished eating one fruit before biting another.*

As we plan our 2012 gardens, we will miss neighboring Windmill Nursery's selection of plants.



**DON'T FORGET!**

# **ANNUAL MEETING**

**7:00 pm, February 16, 2012, Pasadena School**  
**Bring cookies or a snack, drinks provided**

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**  
**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

**Baron Ave** - - - - - Larry Vrieling  
Ljvma@comcast.net 483-0677

**Cool Court** - - - - - Fred & Pat Links  
Fplinks@sbcglobal.net 481-1574

**Park Green Ct.** - Curtis Wheeler  
Curtiswheeler@mail.com 599-8011  
Robert Kerr  
robkerr@mac.com 482-2079

**Pasadena Ave.** - Melissa  
& Tim Beard  
lissabeard@msn.com 488-1777  
Gloria Konovaloff  
nickglo@surewest.net 481-0132

**Sesame St.** - - - - - Lori Bishop  
Lcbishop@hotmail.com 799-8600

**Terra Vista** - - - -  
Julie Jenson 320-4004 cell  
Julie@RichardandJulie.com 283-6826

**The Court** - - - - - Linda Hax  
Lhax@surewest.net 481-9707

**Zephyr Way** - - - April Keck  
487-9752

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**  
**FRED LINKS**



As reported earlier, we had a fantastic 2011 with only two minor incidents. January was good; however, I was told two days ago there was a theft from a vehicle parked on Pasadena Avenue on Tuesday. I have no further information on what happened or whether it was locked or unlocked. Remember to keep doors and windows locked, and continue to be vigilant to what goes around our community.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Thurs., 7 pm, 2/16/12**  
**Pasadena School**

**Next Board Meeting**  
**Thurs., 7:00 pm, 03/08/12**  
**To be determined**

**ECA BOOK CLUB**  
**10 am, Fri., March 2, 2012**  
**Karen's, 4425 Pasadena**



**ECA Book Club**  
**NEW TIME/NEW TIME/NEW TIME**

The **NEW TIME** worked out pretty well this month so we have decided to try it again!

**MAYBE YOU'LL BE OUR NEXT NEW MEMBER TO ATTEND!!!**

That will be **Friday, 10 am, March 2, 2012**, Buxton's, 4425 Pasadena Ave.

**PLEASE COME JOIN US AND GET ACQUAINTED!**

We will be discussing "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind" by William Kamkwamba. A true story about human inventiveness and its power to overcome crippling adversity.

Next, "The Haunted Bookshop", by Christopher Morley

Contact us for more information.

Audrey Blake, 484-6510, audreyjblake@comcast.net

Karen Buxton, 489-9409, kbuxton44@yahoo.com

