



Views from the Terrace

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Life in College Terrace

by Chris Saccheri, CTRA President

Summer is typically a time of rest and relaxation, but try telling that to the diligent crew within the College Terrace Residents' Association (CTRA). Two of our goals for 2019–20 were to improve our communication to residents and increase turnout at our an-

nual picnics and monthly meetings. We made great progress on both goals this summer.

The fruits of the first initiative are in your hands: we're now publishing Views from the Terrace and delivering it to every doorstep in College Terrace twice a year. Websites and email lists are swell, but there's nothing like an old-fashioned, paper newsletter to help spread the word. It allows us to reach the entire neighborhood, and let everyone know what we've been working on this year.

In August, the CTRA held a Back-to-School BBQ and Ice Cream Social at Werry Park with a plethora of fam-



Highlighting the Back-to-School BBQ is Nancy Cassidy, accompanied by Glen MacPherson.

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Upcoming CTRA Board Meetings:

October 16, 7:00 pm

November 20, 7:00 pm

University Lutheran Church. Bowdoin Street at Stanford Avenue



Are you interested in the vital work the CTRA does to promote our neighborhood's interests and bring us together? We are seeking volunteers for board positions starting in March 2020.

Email CTRA president Chris Saccheri (ctra-president@collegeterrace.org) to learn more.

Kindly support CTRA with a \$25 annual contribution, via PayPal at collegeterrace.org/ctra/donate

Thanks!

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ily-friendly activities, including a bounce house, face painting, ice cream bar, and the famous CTRA barbecue (ably manned by CTRA VP Taylor Brady). The highlight of the afternoon was a stellar performance by local folk music favorite Nancy Cassidy. It was fantastic seeing families and friends from across the Terrace gathered at the park, and we're hoping to make this get-together an annual tradition.

Later in the month, more than forty neighbors came to the CTRA's board meeting for a spirited conversation on Stanford's continuing spate of home purchases in College Terrace. The discussion was led by Marisa Kendall of the Bay Area News Group/San Jose Mercury News and included journalists from KQED, NBC Bay Area, and the Center for Investigative Reporting, all working on stories about land ownership in Santa Clara County.

Stanford now owns at least 37 homes in College Terrace, of which more than half are vacant, including those under construction. Neighbors spoke about squatters in Stanford-owned homes, brief "outreach" meetings held by Stanford announcing home demolition or reconstruction, and frustrated Stanford faculty and staff who live in College Terrace but do not meet Stanford's qualifications to buy or rent their homes here.

Thanks to everyone who attended and shared stories, comments, and questions. The meeting was summarized in a Palo Alto Weekly story (August 23), and we

expect to see more coverage from the gathered journalists in print, radio, TV, and online in the coming months.

As we head into the fall, the CTRA's trio of observers will continue to monitor Stanford, the California Avenue Business District, and the Palo Alto City Council, for news and activity affecting College Terrace. You'll read some of their reports in this newsletter, but also watch for regular updates on our website (www.collegeterrace.org). ■



A great crowd came out to Werry Park for the Back-to-School BBQ.



Residents discuss Stanford's presence in College Terrace at our August meeting.

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Stanford General Use Permit (GUP)

by Pria Graves, *Stanford Observer*

The Stanford GUP 2018 application continues slowly: In late June, the County Planning Commission approved recommended conditions of approval. These conditions include requiring much more housing on campus as well as an extended three-hour, no-net-new-trips window (morning/evening), well beyond the current single hour window! Unfortunately, the Commission ceded to Stanford's insistence that they cannot prevent additional reverse trips by non-staff family members or avoid exceeding an Average Daily Trips cap. Instead, it fell back to the standard mitigation solution: a fair share monetary contribution to modify intersections that reach an unacceptable level of service. This falls short of "full mitigation."

Now the GUP has gone to the Board of Supervisors. A first meeting occurred on September 24th with a second to follow on October 8th, both in San Jose. Following these, the Board will conduct public hearings to deliberate and act on the GUP application. These hearings are tentatively scheduled for October 22nd in Palo Alto and November 5th at the County Building in San Jose.

The University continues to object to many aspects of the proposed conditions of approval, claiming that the County is requiring an "unbuildable" project. They still insist that they should be allowed to develop 70% of the required housing off campus as well as counting half of the graduate housing already under development toward the total. To support their views, they are conducting a media campaign in print and on the air to persuade the public. County Supervisor Joe Simitian is firmly committed to full mitigation, and the Board typically follows the lead of the local supervisor, but we need to support his efforts to ensure full mitigation will be a requirement. ■

Sustainability: Practiced in College Terrace

by Pria Graves and Jens Jensen

USE THE PROPER CAN FOR WASTE

Palo Alto has a zero waste plan—can you help achieving it? Please use the GREEN CART for:

1. Edible food scraps
2. Inedible food scraps —pits, peels, cores, bones
3. Paper tissue and towels, pizza boxes and other greasy paper.

The City analysis has shown these items represent a large proportion of items wrongly placed in our BLACK bins.



WALK OR RIDE A BIKE

My watch speaks its own language for measuring grocery trips to Mollie Stone's—2,200 steps one way. The Health App on my phone translates these into 1.95 miles roundtrip in 40 minutes with 190 calories burned. Later in the day, I ride my bike with backpack to Town & Country yielding a hearty loaf of bread at Mayfield Bakery plus a pound of Italian Roast at Peet's. That's four miles, 20 minutes round trip and also 180 calories added on the burn side. Heading for University Ave and want to avoid parking issues? Consider Marguerite's Line X and Line Y during the week. And, yes, there's an App for that: SPOT Stanford Marguerite.

USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Electric cars are a great way to cut your carbon footprint—no argument there. What about reducing driving altogether? College Terrace is fortunate since we are close enough to walk or bike to the Cal Ave Sunday Farmers' Market and to other local shops and services.

VTA buses. We're well served by buses. The VTA 22 and 522 Rapid travel along El Camino every 10 to 20 minutes during the day, and the former runs hourly all night! These buses run from the PA Transit Center downtown all the way to Eastridge shopping mall on the far side of San Jose. They stop for us at the California Ave intersection with El Camino Real.

The VTA 22 is the local bus. Heading south it stops at Stanford Ave (near Khoury's market). Going north, it stops at Town

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and Country Village and at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation before arriving at the downtown station. With its speedier sibling, the 522 Rapid, most of these stops are skipped with only one stop from California Ave to Downtown Palo Alto. Castro Street in Mountain View is just three stops away! Instead of driving, you can read/ sleep/work/listen to tunes or whatever your heart desires while you're on the bus. And no searching for parking at your destination!

The VTA 89 connects with the Cal Ave Caltrain station and runs up and down California Ave roughly every 30 minutes.

Marguerite bus lines. Three of Stanford's free Marguerite bus lines connect with our neighborhood:

- C line stops at Yale and Wellesley on Olmstead and travels across campus to the Stanford West Apartments. It runs on weekdays.
- SE line, the Shopping Express, stops along Olmsted and at California Avenue/El Camino. It runs hourly to San Antonio Shopping Center weekday afternoons and weekends all day; it runs less during holidays and summer break.
- RP liner runs weekday mornings from the PA Transit Center to the Research Park and the reverse in the afternoon with stops at Cal Ave/El Camino.

Longer trips. Caltrain is a useful car alternative for longer trips and an inexpensive way to travel to the main airports, SFO and SJC. The free VTA 10 shuttle takes you from Santa Clara Caltrain to SJC.

If your goal is to use public transport, get a Clipper Card and check out these websites:

- www.clippercard.com
- www.vta.org
- www.caltrain.com
- transportation.stanford.edu/marguerite ■

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annual contribution,
via PayPal at
[collegeterrace.org/
ctra/donate](http://collegeterrace.org/ctra/donate)
Thanks!

County and City News

by Ann Balin, California Avenue Observer

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR TEACHERS

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved an affordable housing project for teacher housing on August 13, 2019. The board voted unanimously to develop 60 to 120 units for teachers at 231 Grant Avenue. This county-owned site is across from the Palo Alto Courthouse. Teachers from the following districts are eligible for homes: the Palo Alto Unified School District, Mountain View Whisman School District, Mountain View-Los Altos High School District, Los Altos School District and Foothill-De Anza Community College District.

CAL AVE IS LOSING RETAIL AT HOTEL CALIFORNIA BUILDING

Sandhill Property Company plans to gut the ground floor of the Hotel California building located at the corner of Ash Street and California Avenue. The Hotel California is not designated to be demolished and will remain a single room occupancy hotel. Alexander's Dog Grooming, which has been in business for 38 years, will likely close. The other remaining tenant is Chris Choi, the owner of California Cleaners, who said he would like to negotiate some arrangement with the owners to remain on Cal Ave. Palo Alto Baking Company, Simply Sandwiches and Cigar House have all previously vacated their premises underneath the hotel. Palo Alto's Comprehensive Plan calls for the city to "create regulations for the California Avenue area that encourage retention or rehabilitation of smaller buildings to provide spaces for existing retail, particularly local, small businesses."

FREE VALET PARKING ON CAL AVE

A temporary free parking program is available during the construction of the California Avenue Parking Garage. Valet parking at 258 Sherman Avenue is provided from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday. A two-hour time limit applies. ■