

Old Escondido Neighborhood Group Times

Third Quarter

September 1998

Neighborhood Meeting September 15

7:00 p.m. Second Floor Turrentine Room Escondido Public Library

Fall is here, and more important elections. For members of the Old Escondido Neighborhood Group that means a voters scoop. Highlight of the September 15 meeting is a chance to scope out the three candidates for Mayor of Escondido. Keith Beier, Neil Lynch and Lori Hop Feiler will participate in a forum, preceding the regular business meeting.

Since all of us who live in old houses, we naturally live by the polite social code of the late Victorians. Which should mean no Clinton/Lewinsky type questions. Otherwise, the field is open for inquiries about where each of the candidates proposes to take Escondido in the next two years. Don't be late!

While we are waiting to exercise our freedom of speech with the candidates we will discuss the following items of business:

Grape Day Parade

In past years, the Neighborhood has entered a float in the Grape Day parade, and manned a booth during the day-long activities. Volunteers are needed for both projects. Lettie Trujillo (739-9942) is chairman of the parade preparations committee. She is particularly interested in recruiting kids for the short parade. Those who participated last year had a great time.

Lettie is also in charge of preparations for a booth at Grape Day. She needs people to help set up, and to man the booth in shifts.

The Old Escondido Neighborhood booth will be highly visible and busy. Tee shirts with the Neighborhood logo will debut at the September 19th meeting, and will also be for sale on Grape Day.

We will also be selling "Kallee's Jellee," homemade jelly form locally-grown Concord grapes.

Getting our shirts on sale in mid-September may give us an edge over our behign competition of last year. The Pioneer Room Friends—selling calendars in the next booth to ours in Grape Day Park—will be back in business.

Let There Be Light

One of the drawbacks about living in the Neighborhood is lack of street lighting. But that chould change: We have lived in the Dark Ages long enough. The City of Escondido has earmarked \$175,000 of the current budget to improve street lighting. That's not a lot of money, and since other neighborhoods have already had their outdoor illumination improved, it's time to act.

City standards require that street lights be placed every 200 feet. So check out your area and make your needs known to the city before the money runs out. Come to the quarterly meeting or call Lettie Trujillo at 739-9942 if you want to light up your life.

Party, Party

Coming up too is the OENG Block Party and Rummage Sale, 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. October 10 on 7th Avenue between Juniper and Hickory Streets. We NEED donations! They can be brought to the sale site beginning at 7:30 a.m. or dropped off a few days early at Dick's house.

We also need volunteers to help with the sale, and to man the barbecue. Secretary-Treasurer Dick Althouse, who ran the shoe before, will give details at the September 19 meeting. He and

Lettie Trujillo are contact persons. Dick's phone 741-7629; Lettie's 739-9942.

More

Other projects to be discussed are: participation in the annual Christmas Parade; the Candlelight Tour in Early December and properties recently qualified for tax relief under the Mills Act.

In case these items are not totally involving or attention-holding, the meeting will also be open to New Business.. What do you think would help our area, things within the official scope of the Old Escondido By-Laws, and the capabilities of our members

Get involved! Attend! Speak Out!

Hold that Paint brush!

HISTORIC PERIOD PAINT COLORS by Sherwin-Williams are still available right here in Escondido at Old Quaker Paint Company, 1566 Sterling Court, 760-741-5850. Check out their appropriate color palettes for period exteriors and interiors from colonial to the 1950's - *before* you slap on just any old shade.

On Walk About

By Dick Althouse

I'm going to take "writer's license" here and get off the sidewalk for a few minutes to talk about something that has been sticking in my craw for quite a while now. I have always been of the mind – keep quiet unless you have something to say.

Apathy – the dictionary defines it as the lack of feeling or concern. Some of us that attend the OENG quarterly meetings on a regular basis are having difficulty figuring out why there is such a low attendance. Do we not announce the coming meeting properly? Are the guest speakers boring? Do we not touch on the right topics of discussion? Or are people just too busy to get involved? APATHY? I'm not sure of the answer.

I have heard it said, that some people feel that OENG has become just about a fun things – A Christmas Parade float, Home Tours, Grape Day. But what about our purpose in starting Old Escondido in the first place? Where is the neighbor willing to help a neighbor? Where is the preservation aspect of all this?

Well, that takes people; it takes commitment. We each lead our own busy lives, be it working for a living, raising a family, or the retired individual that is busier than when he or she was working for a living.

Our Board of Directors at OENG meets monthly instead of quarterly just a few weeks before the OENG Quarterly Meeting. We want to get back on the sidewalk, so to speak, to be more proactive, more creative. But we need help. There are sub-committees to fill out with live bodies, people willing to commit a couple of hours a month to assess the needs of OENG and then work to do something about those needs.

Among our priorities: street lighting, curbs and gutters, sidewalks, cleaner alleys, a cleaner OENG. OENG has a uniqueness about it that not every town has. Tree lined streets, unique architecture, older homes mixed in with the new ones. It is neat to see the re-juvenation that has taken place in the past few years. Some of the fixer-uppers have turned into real gems. But we still have a long way to go!

Can you find the time to attend the Quarterly Meeting of OENG at the Library on September 15, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. Volunteer to serve on a sub-committee, present ideas, get involved. Meet your neighbor down the street. Hold the dustpan while someone else sweeps a broomful of litter that is trashcan bound. OH!! And honk the car horn if you see me standing out there watering the lawn in front of the "*wicked witch on the corner*", the eyesore at the corner of 9th and Maple.

C-ya!

Dick Althouse