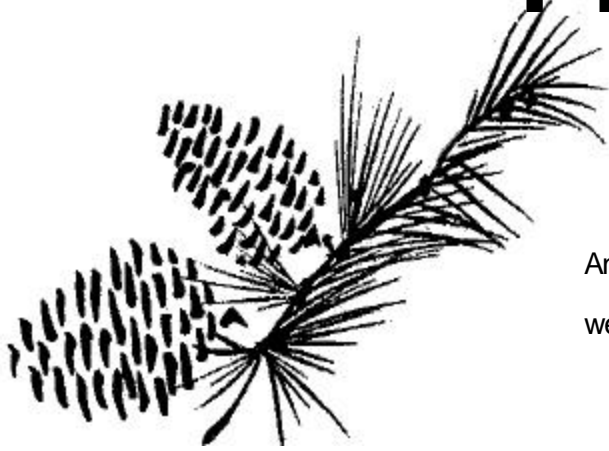


Piedmont Pines Club, Inc.



An association of home and property owners organized for their welfare and the improvement of Piedmont Pines. Since 1941.

March 1999

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Piedmont Pines Club, Inc.
9301 Skyline Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94611
510 531-8093 (Marj Saunders)
Your Home Owners Association

Club Meeting

3/29/99 from 7 –10 p.m.
Joaquin Miller Community Center:
Sanbourne Dr. & Joaquin Miller

After years of relative calm, issues that affect our neighborhood are now popping at an accelerated rate. Several are summarized on page 3.

For many of us, the issues directly involve our property. This will be a full meeting, so come prepared with questions. Councilman Dick Spees will be on hand.

Your attendance is important. Here's the agenda:

1. New Science Center and other major construction on Skyline: Status, concerns.
2. Street lighting: Status.
3. Undergrounding: Status, next steps

4. Castle Park development: Status, next steps, options
5. Secondary units: Issues, status
6. School traffic: Solutions, progress
7. Annual bulk waste pick-up (undonatable appliances, furniture, etc) (Scheduled 12/99).

Time To Pay Dues

As residents in this area, we think this is a great place to live. We are surrounded by incredible natural beauty and we want to keep it that way. We also want to minimize the stresses caused by normal growing pains, and prevent abnormal and destructive growth. We can best do this by banding together. There are about 1,200 households within our boundaries; less than half are paid members.

Dues are only \$10 for a full year--a small fee considering the voice and clout we gain with the City. With the accelerated growth of neighborhood issues, your dues are indeed a sound investment. See page 2 for a sample of Club accomplishments, then look at the challenges as outlined in our agenda: reason enough to dash off your \$10 check today. (Membership form and envelope included.) ♦

Editor Robbie Neely
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Club History

Piedmont Pines Club was formed in 1941 when the Tract was developing. It operated with two primary goals: To get neighbors acquainted and to provide a public medium for members to express themselves on community problems. There were business meetings, social events and action committees.

Action committees stayed busy with building restrictions, streets, transportation, construction of new schools. There was even a Plans Approval Committee that reviewed

every new house, concentrating on two questions: Is the builder doing a good job for the buyer? Is the house in keeping with its surroundings? Such authority is no longer legal, but it served to make Piedmont Pines the special place it is today.

Club Goals Evolve

Today, the club focuses on maintaining a strong and clear voice with the City and on rounding up experts as we need them. An incorporated club representing a community has much more effect on the city planning process than an individual can possibly bring to bear. Our size also makes legal aid

easier and far more reasonable to obtain than if we acted individually.

Most of this decade has been quiet—until now. A new crop of issues has emerged in the last year, and a few old ones have resurfaced. It's time to dust off our community action skills. We never meet just to meet, we wait until there's a clear reason. That saves your time, and makes effective use of the resources and energy of the Club's leadership. We hope you'll join us on March 29 (see page 1). ♦

Mail Theft

There's been a lot of hand wringing about security of on-line transactions. That's natural, it's all so new. But is your home mailing address any safer than an on-line address for conducting important personal, business and financial transactions? Not when thieves roam our streets with unfettered access to our mailboxes.

One set of Piedmont Pines mailboxes (Mastlands Dr.) was emptied by thieves three times in the month of December, and had also been hit last summer. According to both the Oakland Police Department and the United States Postal Service the problem is rampant in the Oakland Hills and difficult to control. Thieves seem to operate in cycles, with December being their busiest month as they scout for Christmas cash and checks.

A related problem is Post Office pick-up boxes: several residents reported problems with undelivered outgoing mail. A ring of thieves apparently had keys to the boxes. Good news: the Postal Service changed the locks on all pick-up boxes in Oakland late last year. In addition, the Postal Service drops test mail each day throughout Oakland to monitor pick-ups. *Continued, page 3*

Piedmont Pines: Accomplishments

Castle Drive Development This is both an accomplishment and a current challenge: The Club has successfully prevented the proposed 17-home development in the Castle Drive canyon that drops down to Mastlands Dr. and Larry Ln. The issue resurfaced this year and the Club is bringing pressure to bear on the City and seeking alternatives with the developer.

Fire Supression Long before the advent of Green Bins, the Club organized garden debris chipping services in its neighborhoods. This service reduced fire fuel and helped keep yards neat and tidy.

Installation of Shell Oil Pipeline The Club successfully lobbied against this intrusion through our neighborhoods.

Widening Skyline Blvd The Club fought the widening of Skyline into a four lane highway. Project was cancelled.

Maintain Sulpher Springs The Club has prevented development and deterioration of Sulpher Springs at Ascot and Chelton and has advocated in favor of our neighborhood "newspaper"-the painted rocks.

Sewers The club pushed for and won a long-delayed replacement of septic tanks with sewers.

Schools The Club lobbied to end bussing our children into Glenview, and successfully negotiated the purchase of the old Boy Scout Camp, now the site of both Joaquin Miller Elementary and Montera Middle schools.

Beaconsville Canyon The club convinced the City to buy the property, thus defeating a 16-home development. The land remains as open space.

Mail Theft *Continued from page 2*

We're trying to accumulate information and evidence about mail theft in our neighborhoods so we can help the authorities and help one another. *Call Robbie Neely at 530-4286 to report any*

recent mail thefts, either known or suspected. She has collected information on filing reports, locking mailboxes, rental boxes. Call her if you need general information or if you're interested in setting up a community

meeting with the Oakland Police Department to discuss this issue.

In the meantime, don't put outgoing mail out with the flag up: the flag is a sure signal to a thief that the box is not empty. ♦

Piedmont Pines: Near-term Challenges

Skylines Construction Chabot Observatory and Science Center is under construction. The issue is balancing the excitement of the center's learning opportunities with the resulting parking and traffic problems. Lend your ideas to help us find the best solution for all.

Street Lighting Decisions about balancing the safety of brighter lights with the ambiance of current "rural" lighting have gone back and forth. The current ruling is if you want a new light, you must get residents within 800 feet of its location to "opt in." This is different from the opt-out petition explained at our last meeting.

Undergrounding Utilities Residents inside the boundaries of Ascot, Chelton, Skyline and Castle need to pay close attention to this one, because if approved by all parties, undergrounding will cost each resident an estimated \$5,600 to \$7,000, payable over 15 years or all at once. The aesthetic advantages have been said to raise property values beyond the cost. Come to the 3/29 meeting to hear more.

Castle Park Development For two decades, Piedmont Pines Club has been successful in stopping development of the canyon that cascades between Castle and Mastlands/Larry Lane. The issue is now back before the City, this time seeking permits for 17 homes. Among the problems with such a large development is the traffic it will create along the already dangerously narrow streets of Castle and Larry Lane. Removing the canyon's vegetation could destabilize Castle Drive and create flood risks in the creek that runs along Larry Lane.

Secondary Units February opened a six-month policy review period on guidelines for secondary units. The review seeks middle ground that addresses safety and parking issues against homeowner desires to extend the use of their property for affordable housing for elderly parents, children, etc.

Piedmont Pines Club, Inc. Membership

Enclosed is \$10 for my 1999 membership dues.

I am a new _____ renewing _____ member.

Years in Piedmont Pines _____

(If different from label on reverse:)

Name _____

Address _____, Zip _____

Meet the Board

Piedmont Pines Club, Inc is served by a 7-member Board of Directors. They are all your neighbors

George Argyris
Telephone: 530-5859
6 Cornwall Ct.

Jeff Asher
Telephone: 482-8709
33 Castle Lane

Elaine Geffen
Telephone: 530-6472
9315 Skyline Blvd.

Paul Basting
Telephone: 482-3636
5 Blackford Ct.

Sylvia Sykora
Telephone: 530-5090
6250 Melville Dr.

Mike Potmesil
Telephone: 531-6445
21 Chelsea Ct.

Jim Kroger
Telephone: 530-2848
2741 Darnby Dr.

Club News

Wes Risedorph

Our deepest gratitude to Wes Risedorph, who for more than 50 years served Piedmont Pines Club as member and chair. He has moved to San Leandro to rattle cages in that fair city. We will miss you, Wes. Watch out San Leandro!

Oakland Public Library Sale: 4/7-10

Friends of the Oakland Public Library is hosting a huge sale of books from Wednesday, April 7 through Saturday, April 10 in Old Oakland at 721 Washington, near Rattos. Books are discounted 40%.

Great Green Sweep: 5/15

Pitch in to help clean and beautify our neighborhoods. This is a city-wide effort. For a Piedmont Pines assignment, call Marj Saunders, 530-8093

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Your Homeowners Association



Important meeting: 3-29

