



Samarkand Neighborhood Association

Santa Barbara, California

P.O. Box 3612, Santa Barbara, CA 93130-3612

SamarkandNeighborhoodAssociation.org

March 2008

Dear Neighbors,

Spring is a busy time for the association. We need to prepare for elections and renew memberships while continuing to bring in speakers and discuss issues affecting our neighborhood. We would like to establish committees to help our members to work on issues of specific concern.

Traffic Committee. We have formed a traffic committee with 7 members: Wayne Beckman, Dan Brooks, Kelly Griffin, Tom and Arthea Hermann, Mary Lindenstein, and Jean Sankey, all of whom are very concerned about local traffic conditions. If you are also interested in neighborhood traffic issues, you can contact the committee by email using the button on the Contacts page of the SNA web site or using the link traffic@samarkandneighborhoodassociation.org.

Parks and Showgrounds. From time to time events at MacKenzie Park, Oak Park, and Earl Warren Showgrounds have had negative impacts on our neighborhood. For example, for the last couple of years SNA board members have worked with the City to tone down the activities and noise associated with the Old Spanish Days' El Mercado del Norte in Mackenzie Park. If you might be interested in working with a Parks and Showgrounds committee to help to mitigate these problems, please inform a board member or send an email to staff@samarkandneighborhoodassociation.org.

Newsletter. John Calder has done a great job with the editing and layout of our newsletter, "The SNApshot", but we need some members to gather material and write articles. You might have seen a copy of "The Mesa Paper", a new journal for our neighbors on the Mesa. If you have the urge to write, report, or help with a neighborhood paper, please inform a board member or send an email to staff@samarkandneighborhoodassociation.org.

Elections. SNA members are invited to submit nominations (which may include self-nominations) for board of directors positions open for election this spring. We are a working board and welcome your involvement.

The Association's membership and board year runs from July 1 to June 30. Board members serve staggered two-year terms, and there are five 2-year open positions plus a 1-year term to fill out a vacancy this spring. The 5 top vote getters will be elected to the 2-year positions and the 6th top vote getter to the 1-year term.

Timeline for nominations, the Spring 2008 election, and board transition:

Deadline for receipt of nominations: Wednesday, April 16
Ballots delivered: Monday, April 28
Deadline for receipt of ballots: Saturday, May 31
Old board/new board meeting: Thursday, June 19

Candidates must be members of the Association and may submit a statement of up to 200 words summarizing their qualifications and interests to accompany the ballot. We reserve the right to edit statements to 200 words, if necessary.

Please submit your name, phone and/or email contact information, and statement of interest in a board position in either of the following of ways:

- Mail to: Samarkand Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 3612, Santa Barbara, CA 93105
- Email to: staff@samarkandneighborhoodassociation.org with "SNA Board nomination" in the subject line

Meetings. The Association is thankful to the Samarkand Retirement Community for the use of a meeting room. Our meetings continue on the third Thursday of the month. However, while the Mountain Room is unavailable, we are meeting in the SRC Chapel.

Reminder. What your dog does on the sidewalk should not stay on the sidewalk. Thanks.

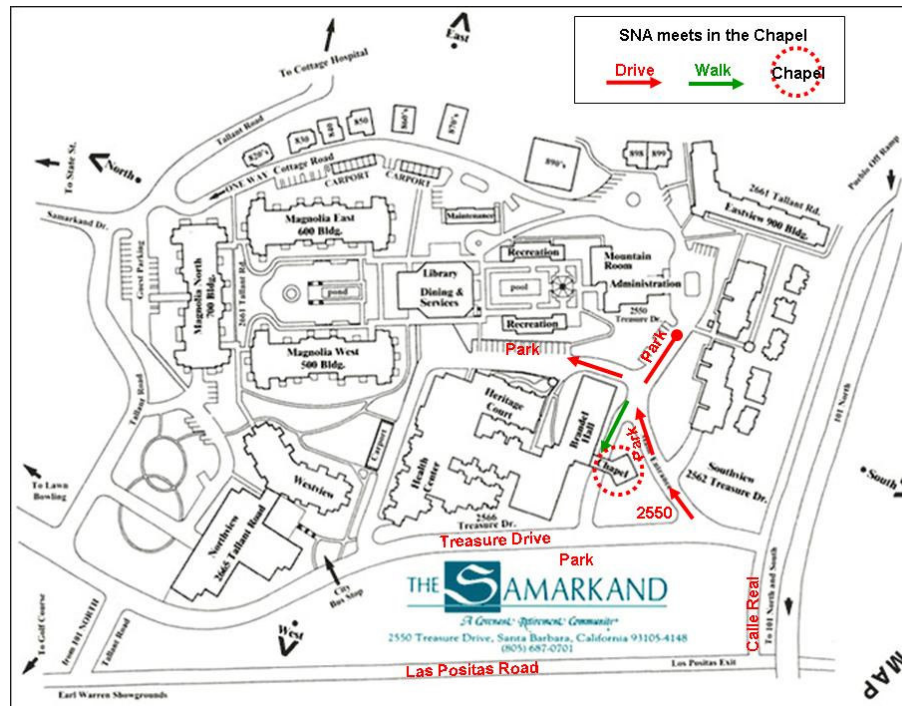
Traffic and Development by Mary Lindenstein

Browning Allen and Steve Sisler, of the Santa Barbara Traffic Operations/Transportation Planning, Public Works Department, attended the November SNA meeting in November to answer questions by the Samarkand community related to traffic and development. Browning opened the discussion to questions:

- Stanley Drive "Chicanes": Browning reported that the chicanes were installed in the late 90's in an effort to both slow down traffic on Stanley Drive, and that they **have** been successful to a degree. There was discussion about additional, new speed calming devices such as "speed tables," particularly for the hilly part of Stanley Drive, and Browning said they are a possibility and will be investigated further for Stanley Drive.
- Resident Parking Permits: There was discussion about possible resident parking permits being required for Serena and lower Samarkand Drives (around Trader Joes and the adjacent facilities) in order to discourage non-resident parking on those streets. A majority of neighborhood support would be needed for this to occur.
- Stanley Bus Traffic: Santa Barbara Transportation buses continue to use Stanley Drive as a cut-through to pick up and deliver disabled trainees to the Work Training Programs, Inc. Community Access Project on De La Vina. Loud, diesel, yellow school buses go up and down Stanley Drive all day. Browning reported that the manager of the company has asked the drivers not to use Stanley Drive, and that if Samarkand residents jot down **the number of the**

bus (found on the side of the bus, such as “TCP 456 A”) and **the time of day** spotted, he will inform the manager and possibly get better results. Residents should e-mail this information to Browning Allen at ballen@santabarbaraca.gov.

- “No Commercial” Zone: There was discussion about making the Samarkand neighborhood a “No Commercial Vehicles” zone. Browning said it could be done, but then it becomes an enforcement issue. However, it could be a deterrent.
- Trader Joe’s: Samarkand residents have heard delivery trucks operating at Trader Joe’s out of agreed upon hours. Residents may call Danny Kato, Senior Planner at Zoning & Community Development, to voice concerns: (805) 564-5564.
- Possible Hazardous Chicane: The chicane closest to the corner of Las Positas and Stanley Drive may pose a hazard for cars turning right off of Las Positas. Browning indicated that he would look at the collision history of the spot.
- Cottage Hospital: There is a feasibility study for reconfiguring the freeway exit in the area that may impact traffic on Calle Real. Also, “bulb outs” will be included on corners in the area. Other traffic improvements will be made after construction of the hospital has been completed. Browning said that “bulb outs” and curb extensions are installed for safety issues since they reduce the crossing distance for pedestrians.
- De La Vina/State Street: Browning noted that the right turn above Trader Joe’s (from State Street onto De La Vina) might be reconfigured into a more traditional right turn to slow down speeders, because the 85th percentile speed around the turn is 38 mph, 8 miles above the speed limit. There is a timeline of construction by the summer of 2008. The tree in the intersection will be transplanted if plans proceed.



**Samarkand Neighborhood Association
Membership Form**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ **Phone #** _____

Email (helps keep communication costs low) _____

Please enclose \$5.00 annual dues for each member, if your label shows a date less than 08. Please make checks payable to SNA and mail to SNA, P.O. Box 3612, Santa Barbara, CA 93130-3612.

Member directory info:

- Include all** **Exclude address** **Exclude phone number**
 Exclude email **Do not list**

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TO: