



THE ROLANDO PARK REPORTER

THIS IS THE 3rd TO LAST ISSUE

OF OUR NEWSLETTER

...unless we get overwhelming support from the community, as outlined in this issue.

PLEASE ATTEND THE RPCC OCTOBER 2009 GENERAL MEETING!

Date: Thursday, October 8th

Time: 7:00 - 8:30pm

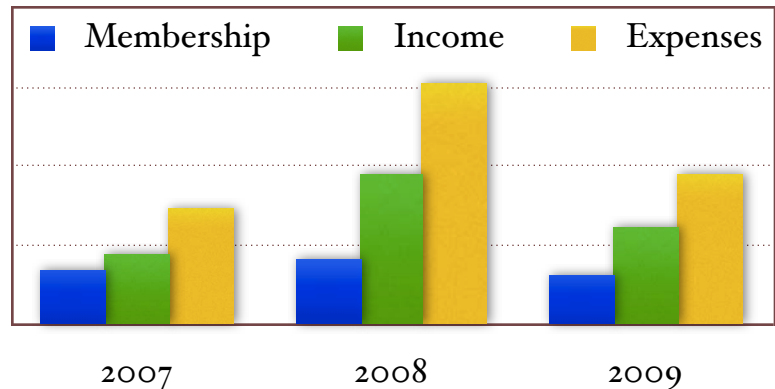
Location:

**Rolando Park Elementary School
6620 Marlowe Drive**

Agenda: Nominations for the 2010 RPCC Executive Board and group discussion of proposed changes to our operations.

Additionally, one of our neighbors, Jon Collins, would like to discuss the possible closure of Livingston Street to through traffic. Note: This is for informational purposes only and is NOT endorsed by the Rolando Park Community Council.

RPCC needs nominees/volunteers! ALL Board positions are open to nomination. "At Large" positions have no specific job descriptions, which allows members to function in various capacities. We specifically need a Newsletter Editor (requires computer skills plus 2-6 hours/month).



(See bottom of page 3 for actual numeric data.)

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES

RPCC is faced with the need to change our operations due to: (1) insufficient community participation/volunteering, (2) decreasing income, and (3) rising expenses. (Data listed on page 3.)

To continue operations as we have in the past, we would need to increase BOTH income and participation simultaneously.

The proposed scaled back operations would be as follows:

- Monthly meetings would be replaced by quarterly meetings held in connection with established community events such as cleanups and the annual block sale. Printed announcements would be distributed to all households.
- Monthly newsletter would be eliminated and replaced by email blasts of notifications, articles and urgent alerts.
- People who do not have email or internet access can request monthly printed summaries of the email blasts.
- RPCC Board would continue all other usual functions of interfacing with City Council and other government bodies, Police Department, School Board, community committees, etc., advocating when appropriate and communicating with the community via email or printouts.

Letter from the RPCC Board to Rolando Park Community Residents

Our Board met following the general meeting on September 10 and came up with recommendations to our community regarding the future of the Rolando Park Community Council. We offer this discussion and conclusions to you, and welcome any comments or ideas you may have. You can contact us by phone or email. Please see the last page of this newsletter for our names and contact information. You can address the entire Board simultaneously at: **board@rolandopark.org**.

We are concerned about: (1) The **low attendance** at our monthly general meetings, (2) The **small number of dues paying member households** (61 compared to the 1400± households in the community to which we deliver newsletters), and (3) Our **inability to recruit more neighbors who are willing to participate** on the Board or to participate in many of the community improvement activities which are working so well in contiguous communities such as Redwood Village and Rolando Village.

We need at least 176 households paying the \$12 annual membership fee to cover Council business costs. For the current calendar year, we have received \$720 in dues. Our two major expenses include the cost for printing the newsletter of \$107.75 per month or \$1293 per year and our annual liability insurance policy which is \$757. Although we are not charged for use of the school facility during the 10 month school year, we are required to carry the liability insurance (as we would be for most other entities which allow use of their facility). Other expenditures include the Post Office Box fee of \$56 and website hosting charges of \$100. Our total annual expenses of \$2206 are almost three times the amount of dues collected this year. Up to this point, excess earnings and donations from previous years have allowed us to cover current expenses.

A few of our neighbors have given us feedback about the newsletter and have expressed appreciation for the information we provide about police activity and advice and City Council business updates at our monthly meetings. We find these comments helpful. But we are unable to proceed with any action-oriented community improvement without some level of participation from some additional residents. For example, we have heard from our police liaisons and the Kensington and El Cerrito communities how successful the Citizens On Patrol project is. Also, advocacy on behalf of Rolando Park Elementary School did prevent the closure of that school in 2004 and again this June (2009), but there will need to be more work done in the next year. We recognize that many of our neighbors are unable to attend our monthly second Thursday evening meetings, but we do believe that even 2 to 4 hours of your involvement per month outside these meetings could be helpful to the Council. At our October 8 meeting, we are looking for volunteers to be nominated or recommendations for nominees for people willing to serve on the Board in 2010.

Our Board wants to continue the Council as an organization so that there will be a framework to address future concerns or activities which will benefit our neighborhood.

Given the current level of participation in the Council and our budget status, the Board advises that we no longer publish a monthly newsletter. Any articles or information will be shared on the RPCC website. Anyone who registers for email blasts will receive any articles we publish on the website. **Unless we have BOTH someone to volunteer to act as editor of the newsletter AND we collect enough dues to cover printing costs for 2010, the December edition will be our last newsletter.** Please make certain we have your updated email since we cannot continue a monthly newsletter as things now stand!

(Continued on the following page)

Letter from RPCC Board (Cont'd from p. 2)

Effective January 2010, we will no longer have monthly general meetings. Our Bylaws require that we have at least four meetings per year. We plan to hold three of these meetings in connection with activities already occurring in our neighborhood: January Community Cleanup Day, August Community Block Sale, Zena Canyon Cleanup Day plus a fourth meeting to be determined. RPCC business will be conducted prior to the start of each community event. We will publish a one page flyer announcing each of the four "event meetings" which, with the continuing assistance of our faithful block walkers, will be delivered to your door.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE EMAIL OR INTERNET ACCESS:

As a service to those without the means to receive electronic communication, the RPCC Board will provide a printed condensed summary of notices and articles delivered to your door once per month. To request this service, please call any one of the Board members listed on the back page of this newsletter, or send a written request to: RPCC, P.O. Box 152352, San Diego, CA 92195.

Please note that the RPCC Board will continue performing all of its other functions including interfacing with the different committees, City Council, Police Department, School Board, etc., advocating when necessary and appropriate, and keeping the community informed via the methods of communication outlined above.

Signing up for email notifications is a simple 2 step process: (1) Go to the RPCC website www.rolandopark.org and enter your email address in the sign up box in the left sidebar near the top, AND (2) YOU MUST CLICK the link contained in the confirmation email in order to receive any email communications from us.

ZENA CANYON RESTORED!

by Audrey Ledesma

In conjunction with the California Coastal Cleanup Day that took place on September 19th, 25 people ventured into our wonderful canyon to remove a variety of debris. Overall, the canyon was cleaner than it has been in previous years.

Aside from the usual wrappers, bags and refuse, there was evidence of human habitation including clothing and blankets along with food and beverage containers. The most unusual item found was a television. And some "genius" thought it would be a good idea to dump a load of carpet and padding out in the middle of the canyon. The shopping carts that were found dumped there were used to bring out the mess.

It's always gratifying to care for this bit of nature we have right here in our neighborhood. And it's a joy joining together with neighbors both familiar and unfamiliar in a common cause. It's what makes Rolando Park a great community to live in!

CHART DATA FROM FRONT PAGE

2007	
Member Households	72
*Income	\$920
Expenses	\$1,490
2008	
Member Households	84
*Income	\$1,931
Expenses	\$3,065
2009 (Year to Date)	
Member Households	63
*Income	\$1,238
Expenses	\$1,904
*From all sources (memberships, donations, ads)	

“STAR” YARD: 3823 69th Street

by Denise Stutzman



This month we celebrate the lush botanical paradise located at 3823 69th Street. Owner Lani Minella considers herself a high-end botanical expert. She uses a unique conglomeration of plants instead of just focusing on tropical, desert, etc. Lani said she welcomes interested neighbors in knocking on the door if they are interested in a sample of a particular plant.

You can support the activities of your RPCC for only \$12.00 per calendar year!

Join or renew your membership:

1. Online at: www.rolandopark.org
2. Bring this form & payment to the meeting
3. Mail it with a check to: RPCC, P.O. Box 152352, San Diego, CA 92195.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

NOTE: Please fill out this form completely, even if your information has not changed.



Special thanks on behalf of the community to:

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Your 2009 Rolando Park Community Council Executive Board

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