



# SCRL NEWS

Stanford Campus Residential Leaseholders, Inc.

July 1, 2008

*The thirsty earth soaks up the rain,  
And drinks, and gapes for drink again;  
The plants suck in the earth, and are  
With constant drinking fresh and fair.*

—Abraham Cowley (1618–1667), Anacreon

Whenever watering a lawn, the water needs to be applied deeply (to a depth of 18-24 inches) and infrequently. Watering more than one to three times per week is a waste of water and is a poor method of watering turf, possibly leading to disease and other problems.

If the water runs off a lawn before the water can saturate the soil to the desired depth, then one must repeat cycles of watering as needed until the water soaks into the soil without running off.

**In other words, if the lawn water runs off after five minutes watering and one needs 15 minutes of water applied to get**



**down into the soil 24 inches. then water for five minutes, stop, run through the next stations until you can cycle the system again to water another two more cycles to give 15 minutes total. This allows the water to soak into the soil and not be wasted by runoff, thus conserving this precious resource.**

If one is concerned about the aesthetics of a landscape without turf, research studies show that alternatives including mulch, shrubs and other drought-tolerant plants can result in a landscape that is considered as attractive and acceptable as a lawn-based landscape.

If homeowners are interested in the cost of a new landscape and they have plans, the Grounds Services Department of the university (723-3050) can give homeowners a free estimate to perform the work.

Herb Fong  
Manager, Utilities Operations

## Save Thousands of Gallons of Water

- ✓ Check the amount of time per station on your irrigation controllers, & check sprinklers for breaks and leaks.
- ✓ Fix water-leaking toilets or dripping faucets.
- ✓ Replace old washing machines with front-loading ones. Use full loads when using washing machines.
- ✓ Use full loads when using dishwashers.
- ✓ When washing dishes by hand, fill the sink or a container instead of leaving the water running.

Stanford Utilities Division, with the support of Santa Clara Valley Water District, will offer rebates of up to \$125.00 for inefficient toilets, and will offer rebates of up to \$200.00 for inefficient clothes washing machines.

Also, Stanford's PSSI will pick up your old toilet, and Stanford Utilities will pay for the pickup and recycling of that toilet until August 11, 2008.

Contact the SCRL office for a flyer.

## Free Water-Wise House Calls Available

The Santa Clara Valley Water District will send trained technicians to your home to assess your water usage and give you customized tips and outdoor watering schedules. For pre-approval and for more information, call

**1-800-548-1882.**

[www.valleywater.org](http://www.valleywater.org)

## **More Water-Saving Tips**

Visit: [facilities.stanford.edu/conservation](http://facilities.stanford.edu/conservation) or call the Utilities Water Hotline at 650-725-8030.

To see examples of water-efficiency projects for the faculty/staff residential area:

<http://grounds.stanford.edu/points/waterwise.htm>.

## SCRL Residential Traffic Safety Committee



SCRL formed the Residential Traffic Safety Committee in November, 2007, in response to the numerous concerns and issues raised at the May, 2007, homeowners' meeting. The committee's charge is to gather input on traffic safety issues on non-county residential streets, delineate the chief concerns and problems, then make recommendations to address them.

The committee consists of three community members: Juan Santiago, Catherine Klenow, and David Ritson and three SCRL Board members: Ron Kaznik, Jeff Moore, and Mary Lou Zoback (chair). Committee membership represented concerns of parents with young children, senior residents, and residents who bike or walk around the neighborhoods. We agreed to tackle the traffic safety problem with a holistic perspective, considering:

- Current and future conditions (anticipating the increased buildup of the eastern part of campus-both residential and university)
- Covering all components of traffic safety for:
  - Children living and playing along streets
  - Pedestrians
  - Bicyclists
  - Motorists

Input on traffic issues came from several sources. We reviewed notes on the oral comments as well as the written suggestions made at the May, 2007, homeowners' meeting. We held a two-hour open community meeting at SCRA on January 27, 2008, that was attended by 30-35 residents and two members of the Stanford Sheriff's Department. We received about 25 e-mails from residents unable to attend the community meeting.

Unsafe traffic conditions on Stanford Avenue, including speeding and dangerous car-bike-pedestrian interactions, were among the top concerns at both the community meeting and in the e-mail input. Unfortunately, as Stanford Avenue is a county road, it is outside of our committee's jurisdiction. Traffic safety issues on both Stanford Avenue and Junipero Serra Boulevard have been repeatedly reviewed during several years of discussions by a Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force.

Top safety concerns identified by the committee are:

- Speeding on residential (non-county) streets
- Disregard for signage by both motorists and bicyclists
- Lack of bike lanes on major residential streets
- Discontinuous sidewalks and lack of ADA ramps on curbs in residential area
- Poor visibility caused by hedges/overgrowth along some residential roads and at some intersections

Traffic calming issues are usually addressed by one or more of the three "E's": **E**ducation, **E**ngineering, and **E**nforcement. While our committee believed it had identified the main traffic concerns, we felt that the best solutions, or mix of solutions, would come from professional assessment and advice.

In its April, 2008, meeting, the SCRL Board tentatively accepted the following recommendation from the committee, pending some cost estimates:

- SCRL, in collaboration with Stanford Police and Stanford Planning, contract with a private traffic safety/engineering consultant to carry out an evaluation of major residential transit routes and recommend solutions to improve safety for pedestrians, children playing, bicyclists, and motorists. The major transit routes include: (see next page)



- **Mayfield Drive to and including Cedro**—connecting Stanford Ave. and Campus Drive
- **Alvarado Row connecting to Pine Hill and to Mayfield**—connecting Bowdoin with Campus Drive, as well as with Mayfield
- **Frenchmen’s-Estudillo-Mayfield**—largely residential traffic, but a school route for many, linking back into the Mayfield-Cedro route
- **Raimundo Road** – access to Nixon School and connection to Peter Coutts and Stanford Avenue

The committee met in May with two traffic consultants to help review and get an estimate for the data collection phase of the project. Because the end of the academic year was so close, we decided to postpone the data collection until the fall, after which the Munger dorm and new 600-car parking garage will be open.



Vernier Place Emergency Preparedness Gathering



L-R: *Michael Fogle, Barbara Bonini, Dick Dickens, Byron Reeves, Chuck Bonini (from the back), Roxanne Reeves, Janet Dickens.*

Nick and Kathy Giori of Vernier Place hosted an emergency preparedness gathering at their house on Saturday, May 10. Vernier Place is part of Emergency Area One (along with Wing Place and Cottrell Way) which has participated in a pilot project for disaster preparedness instituted by SCRL’s Emergency Committee. Sixteen out of 21 households attended, and following a time to socialize, Sharon Brauman, Tolman resident and Red Cross volunteer, delivered a “Be Red Cross Ready” presentation.

Brauman emphasized the fact that an earthquake is almost sure to happen in the next 30 years. It could be tomorrow. When that happens, the university will be concerned with the welfare of thousands of students, plus faculty and staff. Disasters such as Hurricane Katrina have demonstrated that help from outside may be slow to arrive. So it’s vital that each of us prepare our households with adequate water, food and other supplies for a minimum period of three days, ideally for two weeks.

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Area 7 Emergency Preparedness Gathering

Rob and Bichtien Rouse of Mayfield Avenue, Area 7, hosted a disaster preparation meeting at their Mayfield Avenue home on April 5. Thirteen neighbors joined them for snacks before Sharon Brauman delivered a “Be Red Cross Ready” presentation, followed by a question and answer period.

An emergency cache from the Knuth household of Vernier Place was displayed at the gathering to show what it would take to survive for several days without water, power or communication. At the close of the gathering, several people visited Area One’s Emergency Assembly Point (EAP) and learned the location of the Area’s emergency cache. This cache is stocked with tools and first-aid supplies to help with the neighborhood response immediately following a disaster.

According to Emergency Coordinator Jill Knuth, many people left for home highly motivated to stockpile their own emergency supplies, especially food and water. She adds that the neighbors are also enthusiastic about having more frequent social gatherings; by getting to know each other better, they will be better prepared to help each other when a disaster occurs.



*Emergency cache items of the Knuth household*

Emergency Tip of the Month

Test the ability of your bathtub and sink stoppers to hold water for long periods. Buy big, flat rubber stoppers to use if you need to fill the tubs and sinks to provide for a long-term source of water.



*Bichtien and Rob Rouse*

## Stanford Emeriti Council

Six years ago, SCRL members and faculty emeriti Al Hastorf and Jim Mark founded the Stanford Emeriti Council. This is an informal group that has an ex officio member on the Faculty Senate who represents the hundreds of emeritus faculty, many of whom are still working at the university and living on campus or in adjacent towns. The 2007-2008 representative was Tony Siegman, McMurdy Professor of Electrical Engineering, Emeritus, who will be followed in 2008-2009 by Saul Rosenberg, Maureen Lyles D'Ambrogio Professor of Medicine and Radiation Oncology, Emeritus.

For the past three years, the emeriti community has sponsored a series of talks by colleagues, including Kenneth Arrow, Luigi Cavalli-Sforza, Laura Carstensen, Sidney Drell, Arthur Kornberg, Diane Middlebrook, George Shultz and Patrick Suppes. The lecture subjects have included, among others, new views on longevity, working with super phosphates, and how experiencing a devastating disease influenced one person's research on a Roman orator. The lectures, open only to faculty and staff emeriti, drew approximately 150 people each time. Future lectures may be made available to the public via Stanford iTunes.

The Council has sponsored an on-campus informational meeting about Avenidas Village, a living-in-place program developed by the Palo Alto senior center, Avenidas. "It's striking how many emeriti stay in the area, either on-campus or in the neighboring communities," said David Abernethy, Emeritus Professor of Political Science, and Council Chair for 2007-2008. He adds, "Emeriti or surviving spouses live in about one-third of the campus housing." Several emeriti living in local retirement communities have said they would be willing to talk with other emeriti who are considering a move to one of these. Also, some Council members have met with Jan Thompson, Director of the Faculty and Staff Housing Office, to discuss rules and regulations, lease provisions, and turnover rates.

Of further interest to local emeriti is the Council's ongoing conversation with the Benefits Office about what role, if any, that office might have in helping emeriti navigate the medical care benefits system.

Of particular interest to David Abernethy is how emeriti can benefit Stanford students and the university. For example, several emeriti have expressed their willingness to assist the university as guest lecturers in courses, as mentors and career counselors to graduate

students, and as members of university examination committees. Abernethy foresees department chairs playing a key role in identifying emeriti for particular tasks and then inviting them to participate.

The Council has begun an experimental program in which undergraduates are invited to emeriti homes for dessert, coffee and discussion of substantive issues. Says Abernethy, emphasizing how meaningful it can be for a student to visit a faculty member's home, "I've had former students who visited my house twenty years ago remember what flavor ice cream they ate." He adds that another viable option may be to have emeriti invited to speak in student residences about their careers or their perspectives on current issues.

Besides Abernethy, current Council members include Chuck Holloway, Marion Lewenstein, Ingram Olkin, Nancy Packer, Saul Rosenberg, Larry Ryan, Susan Schofield, Stanley Schrier, Ken Scott and Tony Siegman. Co-founders Al Hastorf and Jim Mark attend the Council's luncheon meetings held at the Faculty Club two or three times per quarter.

Provost John Etchemendy provides financial support, and Pamm Moore, Administrative Associate in Faculty Development, provides administrative support.

For more information, please contact Pamm Moore at [pamm@stanford.edu](mailto:pamm@stanford.edu) or 736-0384.

### Jack Cleary

#### New Liaison to SCRL



The SCRL Board of Directors welcomes Jack Cleary as the new Special Assistant to the Provost for Homeowners Relations. Jack has worked at Stanford since 2001 and is the Associate Vice President of Academic Projects and Operations.

## Disposing of Used Needles/Syringes & Hazardous Household Waste.



You may dispose of used needles and syringes every first Saturday of the month from 9:00 a.m.- noon at the Regional Water Quality Control Plant, 2501 Embarcadero Way, Palo Alto.

### Safe Disposal Tips at Home

1. You may use a disposal container that can be found at some drugstores or drug companies.
2. If you don't have a retail disposal container, get a hard plastic container that has a lid and is hard to puncture (clear plastic bottle is best). Screw on lids should be used. DO NOT use aluminum beer or pop cans, glass bottles or coffee cans or metal cans.
3. Label a piece of tape on the container "DO NOT RECYCLE: HOUSEHOLD SHARPS."
4. Container can be ½ full of needles before disposal.

### Disposing of Hazardous Household Waste



You may also dispose of your hazardous household waste such as pesticides, pool chemicals, paint, etc., at the Regional Water Quality Control Plant on any first Saturday of the month from 9:00 a.m.- noon.

For more information, please call 650-329-2598 or go to [www.cleanbay.org](http://www.cleanbay.org).



Bill Larson of Stanford's Department of Public Safety is a man on a mission. He wants our community to be as crime-free as possible, and is working to rejuvenate a "neighborhood watch" program. "It's been proven to save lives," he says.

Larson is looking for SCRL members to form a core group that would recruit participants interested in enhancing communication among neighbors. As the crime prevention and risk management coordinator for the Department of Public Safety, Larson would facilitate the process, provide the basics in setting up the program and serve as a resource to the group.

"The best way to prevent or spot a crime is to know your neighbors," he says. Because of this, he is a big advocate of block parties and phone trees. He also stresses the need to notify neighbors when planning to be out of town, to call the police about suspicious activity, to investigate a prolonged and unexplained absence of a neighbor, etc.

Anyone interested in being a member of the neighborhood watch core group is asked to contact the newsletter editor, Mary Sullivan, at 328-3498 or [Maryfran11@msn.com](mailto:Maryfran11@msn.com).

## Stanford University Women's Club Welcome



We'd like to introduce you to the Stanford University Women's Club and welcome you to join. We encourage warm friendships, new and old, and provide opportunities to share interests and enrich the lives of our members.

We have a number of sections that meet at various times each month. These include, among others, Book Group, Cuisine Club, Explore the Campus, Bridge, Armchair Travel, Dancing Partners, Author's Coffee, Stanford Moms & Kids, and German, French and Italian Conversation groups.

In the fall, we hold a welcome brunch hosted by Andrea Hennessy. All new and prospective members are encouraged to attend.

A sampling of some of the sections offered include...

**Armchair Travel:** Share stories and photos of trips taken recently or in the past. Meets 3-4 times/year. Margaret Green: [megreen@stanford.edu](mailto:megreen@stanford.edu).

**Author's Coffee:** Meets about five times/year, usually at the homes of members. Some of last year's authors included Dr. Michael Marmor, Dr. Dennis Bar, and Dr. Caitlin O'Connell-Rodwell. Please contact Natalicia Basch at [m.basch@att.net](mailto:m.basch@att.net).

**French Conversation:** We meet every Wednesday from 10-11:30 a.m. at the home of one of our members. We start with refreshments, then converse solely in French about any number of topics. We do try to correct mistakes. Come join us.

**German Conversation:** Meets twice/month. We bring a sack lunch and enjoy each other's company and the opportunity to use spoken German. The fluency level ranges from women who first spoke German as their native tongue to those who studied long ago and feel quite rusty. It's a very companionable group.

**Music:** Hear live music in the intimate setting of a home. The music program lasts 45-60 minutes, followed by refreshments and the opportunity to talk with the musicians.

For more information about our club, please contact JoAnn Bright, [museumfun@aol.com](mailto:museumfun@aol.com), Dallas Manning, [Lmanning@stanford.edu](mailto:Lmanning@stanford.edu), or Ellen McLennan, [wmclennan@aol.com](mailto:wmclennan@aol.com)

## Discount Available for SCRA Membership

Newly hired Assistant Professors at Stanford who qualify to own a home on campus have a one-year window from date of hire to join the Stanford Campus Recreation Association (SCRA) at a special initiation fee rate of \$1000.00, a 50% savings.

Note: Current Assistant Professors who qualify have a one-time offer to submit their application to SCRA and join at the same special rate until December 31st, 2008.

Submit applications or direct questions to Steve Robe, General Manager of SCRA, located at 875 Bowdoin Street, Stanford, CA 94305. Phone: 650-857-9521  
E-mail: [steve.robe@stanford.edu](mailto:steve.robe@stanford.edu)  
SCRA Website: <http://scra.stanford.edu>

## Piano Available for Free



We have a Chickering 69" piano that needs a home for at least two years or longer. It has been in the Luthy family for 50 years and is in excellent condition. If you can give it a good home for an indeterminate length of time, we would be interested in loaning it to you gratis. For more information, please contact Dick Luthy, [luthy@stanford.edu](mailto:luthy@stanford.edu) or Mary Sullivan, 328-3498 or [Maryfran11@msn.com](mailto:Maryfran11@msn.com).



## WHAT YOU DID ON YOUR SUMMER VACATION

Share with SCRL members where you went or what you did during the summer months. Your newsletter editor would be happy to receive submissions to include in the fall issue. Photos are welcome, too. Please send to [Maryfran11@msn.com](mailto:Maryfran11@msn.com).

## Lawns and Water Conservation

By Herb Fong  
Manager, Utilities Operations

With the state-declared drought in California, there is increased interest in different ways to reduce our use of water in the landscape.

Lawns or turf are the number one water-needing element in any landscape.

Besides needing water, turf demands more resources such as chemicals, mowing, and weekly attention than any other element in our landscapes.

Because of the resource needs of turf, we have attempted to limit turf on the main campus. Simply converting from turf to an ornamental ground cover or mulch will save a minimum of 30% in water use depending upon the extent or type of change.

If a turf is needed, there are certain turf species that are more drought tolerant than others. On the Stanford campus we utilize primarily a dwarf form of tall fescue, *Festuca arundinacea*.



*Festuca Arundinacea*

The newer dwarf forms are shorter and have narrower leaves than the normal species and fit very nicely into the landscape. The best quality of this turf, besides being one of the toughest species for playfields and high foot-traffic, is that they can send roots down to depths of 24 inches or more, which makes the species very drought-tolerant. A well-established tall fescue lawn can go a week between watering.

## SCRL Board of Directors

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**Special Assistant to the Provost  
for Homeowners Relations:** Jack Cleary

For photos and bios of the above, please go to the SCRL Website, click on "Board," look under the title printed in red, "SCRL Board of Directors," and press "here" as indicated.

## **SCRL Office Information**

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Fax: (650) 725-6075  
Website: <http://www.stanford.edu/group/scrl>

Office: 885 Capistrano Way, Stanford  
Stanford Campus Mail Code: 8205  
**SCRL Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 18146  
Stanford, CA 94309

## **Report of SCRL's Annual Meeting & Changes to the Board of Directors**

Because the minutes of the SCRL annual meeting and a summary and photos of the meeting won't be available until after the July 1 publication date of this quarterly newsletter, that information will be disseminated sometime after the middle of July. Included in that information will be the names of the SCRL Board's most recent members elected at the annual meeting.