



The Greenbelt

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GREENBELT PROFILE CYNTHIA SUVERKROP

Community Activist & Neighborhood Representative for Oak Hills

By Tom Dominy

Cynthia and Dana Suverkrop have lived in Oak Hills since 1991 when Dana was transferred by the Army from his assignment in the Netherlands. Their girls Jenny, now a school teacher, and Katie, an NFL cheerleader for the Baltimore Ravens, attended our local schools.

As a wife of a career officer, Cynthia has worked different jobs at different times while husband Dana completed his duties with the Army. She's been employed professionally as a teacher, a realtor, an advertising writer, and a journalist. Most of her professional career has been spent teaching middle school for 17 years in Greenfield and Salinas. All these areas of knowledge served her well during her tenure on the Board with OHHA. Both Cynthia and Dana are now enjoying full retirement.

She volunteered and was appointed to the OHHA Board in 2011 to fill a vacancy and then elected to serve in 2012-2015. She worked diligently as a Board member and held positions of Secretary and Vice President of the organization.

Like other Oak Hills residents, she enjoys a regular walk. One day out walking in 2011, it occurred to her that cars zoomed way too fast along Charter Oak, however unintentionally. The excessive speed created a significant danger to the children playing nearby and the many walkers who must cross Charter Oak. She decided that something had to be done.

She began by contacting the local office of the CHP to see if they could put up a portable radar speed reader. Their "no" led her to ask the Monterey County Sheriff Department. And their subsequent "no" led her to the Monterey County Department of Public Works. Her contact there told her about a neighborhood governing board, CSA 45, that has a budget and the power to request the county to purchase such things as a radar speed machine for the neighborhood that it governs.

Continued...

So In May of 2012, she presented CSA 45 with the idea of a radar speed reader to be placed on Charter Oak, to which they agreed. The county required the request to be rewritten at least a couple of times in order to meet their regulations. Then there were county personnel changes. Both these occurrences caused Oak Hills' "radar speed machine" to stall for a few years. All the while, Cynthia kept checking back with CSA 45, making sure their interest in the project did not wane. She kept tabs on the Dept of Public Works to make sure the project didn't fall through the cracks. And she sought the help of Supervisor Calcagno and later Supervisor Philips.

Her work with CSA 45 and her interest in public safety led Supervisor Calcagno, and later Supervisor Philips, to ask her to represent Oak Hills in the Highway 156 expansion proposal that has been developed by TAMC—The Transportation Agency of Monterey County. The know-how and effort she used to get the neighborhood radar speed sign was also used to get the two devices installed along HWY 156 this summer.

Here's where all that training and expertise in journalism, public information and teaching fit the job at hand: after 5 long years of persistence, Oak Hills finally got its \$11,000 speed sign that flashes speeds to all oncoming traffic and collects data that will help guide future decisions about traffic regulation.

Just from a subjective observation, it seems that traffic has slowed down when approaching that sign and thus, Oaks Hills is now safer because of the long and tedious work of Cynthia Suverkrop, of whom we are most grateful for service to her community.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST WINNER

There were many homes in Oak Hills that did a fantastic job of decorating for the Christmas season. It was a very festive neighborhood this year. This years Christmas Decorating contest winner went to Bryan and Lori Kruse on Pampas Path. The Lonero's on Arrowleaf Trail took a very close 2nd place. Thank you to all that participated in decorating their home and yards!

DID YOU KNOW ...

Did you know that you can set up Bill Pay through most banks using their online banking system to send you Bi-Monthly Association Dues? When you set up Bill Pay for your dues, please use your street address as your Account Number and have the check sent to P.O. Box 689 Castroville, CA 95012. Schedule to payments for every two months and you will be set.

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Did you know that there is a Drop Box located at the OHHA office at 9907 Pampas Path? If you would like to save a stamp and/or get a little exercise, walk on over tot the office and drop off you dues payment.

OAK HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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