

THE FCA BULLETIN

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILL COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATION

Serving North Tustin for 55 years, 1964–2018

www.FCAhome.org

February 2018

2018 ANNUAL AND TOWN HALL MEETING

When: Monday, March 5, 6:30 PM

Where: Foothill High School, Event Center

The Annual and Town Hall Meeting of the Foothill Communities Association is open to the public, and everyone is welcome. Residential crime is of concern to North Tustin residents, and the 2018 Annual Meeting will focus on making the greater North Tustin area safer. Several speakers will address crime prevention. The first speaker will discuss a new FCA committee that will focus on reducing crimes in North Tustin. A question and answer period will follow the speakers. All speakers and local agencies will participate in the Q&A. So have your questions ready.

Starting at 6:30 pm will allow a half hour for informal discussions with FCA committees and with OC agencies—many will have tables and handout materials. Presentations will begin at 7 pm.

For 54 years, FCA has strived to preserve our unique and highly valued living environment. Last year we continued our efforts to protect and enhance our community. We work very hard to resolve community issues for our members. Your membership demonstrates your commitment to these objectives. Member dues will slightly increase this year. For continuing members, renewal is only \$25 (\$20 for seniors 65 and over). For new members, the first year is free, and Lifetime membership is \$300. An FCA membership is a low-cost investment in our community and helps to insure our quality of life. If you have not mailed your 2018 membership dues, please complete the membership form in this Bulletin and mail with your check today or fill out the form at www.FCAhome.org. Now is the time to join or renew! FCA memberships, except for Lifetime members, all expire on December 31 of every year.

A ballot for the election of Directors is enclosed. You can vote when your membership is current. You may return these ballots with your membership check or at the Annual Meeting. Attendees can join or renew and vote at the Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,



Richard Nelson, President

714-730-7810

rnelson@FCAhome.org

NO REZONING - AGAIN

ISSUE: Developer Steve Sheldon initially proposed to build 22 homes on 6 acres in Cowan Heights. This was double the density of the existing zoning which mandated minimum 20,000 square foot lots. Neighbors informed FCA that they were opposed, and the FCA Board voted unanimously to oppose the project.

CURRENT STATUS: In December 2017, the County approved a zone change for the project site to Planned Development, which could accommodate 10,000 square foot lots. The vote for approval of a specific development plan was continued to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting on February 6. FCA has been negotiating with the developer through December and January, and we now have an agreement. He is willing to reduce the number of homes and has agreed to a number of changes that will improve the project's appearance from Newport Blvd., will benefit the new residents, and will improve fire safety.

In January, a lawsuit was filed on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Additional causes of action can be added in the future. With the agreement, any action on the lawsuit is now on hold. It is possible that the BOS will not accept the agreed upon changes on February 6. If that transpires, the lawsuit may be pressed ahead.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: If the BOS does not approve our agreed upon terms, we may need to continue to raise funds for the lawsuit. The results of the BOS hearing will be noted on FCAhome.org and StopSheldon.com. The second website is operated by a North Tustin resident, not by FCA. Both have buttons that link directly to the FCA financial account for the lawsuit. If the lawsuit is dropped, remaining funds will be returned on a prorated basis.

Steering Committee: Many thanks to the people who have been working hard on this project, including Jane Rice (Chair), Robert Fair, Jenny Benford, Jim Allen, Francine Scinto, Susan Stalzer, Rick Nelson, and others in the community who have offered cogent advice.

AIRCRAFT OVERFLIGHTS

The FAA switched to a GPS guided approach system in 2017, and there have been concerns that this may have changed the John Wayne Airport landing pattern and the noise level. A study in 2017 examined these issues, and FCA Director Hal Marshall reviewed the study and agreed with its conclusions. Namely, there are inconsequential changes in noise level and flight path.

Hal has written a report that is too lengthy to include here, but it will be posted on the FCA website.

Newport Beach, Laguna Beach, and the County filed a lawsuit against the FAA over the new GPS procedures. The FAA settled but the lawsuit only affected the take-off patterns over Newport Beach and Laguna Beach and affected no other communities.

GOLDEN STATE WATER

FCA is monitoring the efforts of other communities that want to replace Golden State Water (GSW). Only one in recent times has been successful, and this was as a result of extremely poor system maintenance that resulted in a lawsuit over damage to facilities in the city. This would not apply to the three areas of North Tustin that are supplied by GSW. When we do find a way forward, someone with accounting experience will be needed. If you are that person, please contact Rick Nelson at rmelton@FCAhome.org.

The Orange County General Manager for GSW discussed the activity along Cowan Heights Drive. He explained that the contractor working for GSW is installing new pipes and fire hydrants on Hunting Horn Dr. It is expected that the pipeline work will be completed in early February and that will reduce the interference with traffic. After the fire hydrants are replaced, the roads will need to be resurfaced and restriped. This should be completed by the end of February, and the GSW contractor will demobilize from the Cowan Heights Dr. property. He pointed out that there is another contractor, unrelated to GSW, working on the same site, and he has no knowledge of what that contractor is doing. Work on the Peacock reservoir improvements are underway and will continue for some months. The roof of the reservoir is being replaced and new booster pumps installed. This work will be on the reservoir site and should have minimal traffic impact. There will be ongoing construction affecting the neighbors around Peacock Hill.

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

The Fire Safe Council has been in place for several years. Currently, FCA is having difficulty committing sufficient time to make the group effective.

If there is someone or a group that wants to pick this up, either as a component of FCA or as a separate entity, please contact Rick Nelson at rmelton@FCAhome.org.

PANORAMA HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT

As the largest area of North Tustin still within the borders of the Orange Unified School District (OUSD), Panorama Heights is moving slowly, but successfully, to transfer from the OUSD to the Tustin Unified School District (TUSD). FCA has been fully supportive of this transition. Marlene Graham, Jennifer Lampman, Katie Mayberry, and Kasie Bowen of Panorama Heights have worked diligently and tirelessly to overcome the obstacles stacked before them to align the families of Panorama Heights with the rest of North Tustin, an assemblage of unique neighborhoods with which our neighbors in Panorama Heights feel they are closely affiliated. The petitioners, parents, and children of Panorama Heights remain optimistic that they will ultimately prevail, and that their successful petition to join the TUSD will be supported by all their neighbors throughout North Tustin.

Current Status: The request for transfer of Panorama Heights and Lower Panorama territory (north of Fairhaven and south of Chapman, approximately 480 homes) was approved by the Orange County Committee on School District Organization during two public hearings last fall. This committee is composed of 11 members elected by representatives from all the school boards in Orange County, and it is the legal body that oversees boundaries and transfers of territory between school districts and any changes to electoral areas and methods (for instance, election by trustee areas). OUSD objected to the transfer of territory, which has forced an election. The County Committee agreed with the petitioners that the election would take place solely in the area to be transferred rather than the entire OUSD area.

The County Committee's decisions can be appealed to the State Board of Education. Unfortunately, OUSD chose to appeal, which will delay the transfer of territory for approximately two years. OUSD's legal maneuver includes an argument that North Tustin is not a legal entity and that Panorama Heights is not part of North Tustin.

CRIME PREPAREDNESS

Our community is understandably concerned about the recent increase in crime. The Foothill Communities Association is initiating an effort to respond. FCA's new **Neighborhood Safety & Security Committee** is being organized to assist our neighbors in addressing the rising incidents of crime in the greater North Tustin area. The

committee will meet to develop tools that will be made available to the public, including information on establishing a Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP), with flyer and door hanger templates, handouts, and signage. The committee plans to distribute contact information for FCA volunteers, who can assist you in the development of your NWP, including helping on the day of the event. In addition, the FCA will publish a guide on how to harden your home against burglary that includes a simple, scored self-assessment of your level of preparedness with suggestions on how to improve your score. The guide will also include information on the power of social media platforms like *Nextdoor* to communicate and organize neighbors more efficiently, more quickly, and therefore more effectively on those issues that are most concerning in your neighborhood.

DONATIONS REQUESTED

FCA keeps the cost of our annual membership low to encourage all residents of North Tustin to join. The downside of this practice is that funds are not available for some important projects. Your donations can make a big difference.

Please consider including an amount on the membership form in addition to your membership fee. The ability to pay dues and a contribution on a monthly basis will be added to the website.

SPECIAL SEWER DISTRICT

East Orange County Water District (EOCWD) is forming a special sewer district to facilitate the change from a septic tank to the sewer system. By pooling the cost, requesting some tax breaks, and spreading the cost over 30 years on property taxes, it can be made more affordable. There are about 600 homes in North Tustin on septic tanks, and approximately 100 have expressed interest in connection to the public sewer system thus far.

For more information, contact Lisa Ohlund, General Manager of EOCWD, at lohlund@eocwd.com.

If you have questions or comments about this Bulletin or concerns about North Tustin, contact Rick Nelson, rnelson@FCAhome.org or 714-730-7810.

ANNUAL MEETING AND
COMMUNITY UPDATE

FOOTHILL COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATION
Serving the Entire Unincorporated North Tustin Area
Post Office Box 261, Tustin, CA 92781 FCAhome.org

2018 FCA MEMBERSHIP

JOIN FCA NOW – HELP PROTECT & IMPROVE NORTH TUSTIN

Please mail this form with your check to: FCA, PO Box 261, Tustin, CA 92781

02-18

Names: 1. _____

2. _____

Address: _____
City Zip

Email Address: 1. _____ 2. _____

I would like to receive FCA information via email. (Please be sure email addresses are legible).

Phone: (_____) _____ Alternate Phone: (_____) _____

Membership Type: \$0 New Member \$40 North Tustin Advocate \$300 Life Membership
 \$20 Senior Membership \$75 North Tustin Patron
 \$25 Basic Membership \$ ___ North Tustin Leadership Council

Donations (please include a separate check for a donation): \$ ___ North Tustin Litigation Fund

\$ ___ Beautification \$ ___ Scholarships \$ ___ North Tustin PAC \$ ___ Golden State Water Rip Off

I/we are interested in helping or serving on (check as many as you like):

Airport Issues Golden State Water Newsletter Website
 Beautification Land Use Parks and Trails Crime Reduction
 Fire Safe Council Membership Roads Other